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, Applied Econometrics, Economics of Education

Publications

"Student Regional Origins and Student Entrepreneurship," with Jon Eckhardt, Chuan Chen, Bekhzod Khoshimov, and Brent Goldfarb, **Regional Studies, December 2021**

Working Papers

"Identifying and Estimating Perceived Returns to Binary Investments," **Under Review**

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.

"Interpreting Instrumental Variable Estimands with Unobserved Treatment Heterogeneity: The Effects of College Education"

Abstract: Many treatment variables used in empirical applications nest multiple unobserved versions of a treatment. I show that instrumental variable (IV) estimands for the effect of a composite treatment are IV-specific weighted averages of effects of unobserved component treatments. Differences between IVs in unobserved component compliance produce differences in IV estimands even without treatment effect heterogeneity. I describe a monotonicity condition under which IV estimands are positively-weighted averages of unobserved component treatment effects. I develop a method that allows instruments that violate monotonicity to contribute to estimation of treatment effects by allowing them to place nonconvex, outcome-invariant weights on unobserved treatments across multiple outcomes. I apply the method to lifecycle returns to college, estimating "high-type" college returns that range from 10% to 26% over the life cycle and "low-type" returns that range from 2% to 14%. My findings emphasize the importance of policies that encourage students to attend "high-return college" in addition to those that encourage "high-return students" to attend college.

"The Effects of Chicago's Teacher Walkouts on Juvenile Crime", with Abigail R. Banan, Mary Kate Batistich, Jillian Carr, and Kendall Kennedy

Abstract: On September 10, 2012, Chicago's teachers began a strike that forced over 400,000 students out of school for 8 consecutive school days. This study examines how this interruption in schooling affected crime in Chicago, both during and immediately after the strike. Using a variety of methods – interrupted time series analysis, synthetic controls, and place-based intensity of treatment analysis – we find that crime rates in Chicago neither significantly nor substantially changed after the strike, suggesting incapacitation has little role in the effect of education on crime.

"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

"Peer Effects in University Housing: Evidence from Fuzzy Central Assignment", with Jon Eckhardt, Chao Fu, Jesse Gregory, and Victoria Prowse

"The Effects of Peer Diversity on Entrepreneurship: Evidence from University Residence Halls", with Jon Eckhardt and Brent Goldfarb

"A Correction for Nonresponse Bias Using Nonrandomized Followup: Evidence on The Entrepreneurship Gender Gap", with Jon Eckhardt

"Separate Identification and Estimation of Perceived Credit Constraints and Perceived Returns to College Using Observed Attendance Decisions"

"Looking out for Number 1,2,...,T: Identity Persistence and Altruism as Microfoundations for Intertemporal Discounting"

Conference and Seminar Presentations

North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society	June 2022
Society of Labor Economists	May 2022
Southern Economics Association	November 2021
Midwest Economics Association (SOLE Session)	March 2021
Association for Education Finance and Policy	March 2021
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	November 2018

National Tax Association	November 2018
Krannert Ph.D. Research Symposium	October 2018
Midwest Economics Association (SOLE Session)	March 2018
Midwest Economics Association	March 2017
Krannert PhD Research Symposium	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

Education Economics, 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