

CODY TUTTLE

University of Maryland
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, 2020
M.A. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, 2016
B.A. Economics, Centre College, 2012

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Public Economics
Secondary: Political Economy

COMPLETED PAPERS

Snapping Back: Food Stamp Bans and Criminal Recidivism, June 2018. Forthcoming at
American Economic Journal: Economic Policy

I estimate the effect of access to Food Stamps on criminal recidivism. In 1996, a federal welfare reform imposed a lifetime ban from Food Stamps on convicted drug felons. Florida modified this ban, restricting it to drug traffickers who commit their offense on or after August 23, 1996. I exploit this sharp cutoff in a regression discontinuity design and find that the ban increases recidivism among drug traffickers. The increase is driven by financially motivated crimes, suggesting that the cut in benefits causes ex-convicts to return to crime to make up for the lost transfer income.

Rules versus Home Rule: Local Government Responses to Negative Revenue Shocks, working paper, December 2018, with D. Shoag & S. Veuger. Revise and resubmit at *National Tax Journal*

Local governments rely heavily on sales tax revenue. We use national bankruptcies of big-box retail chains to study sudden plausibly exogenous decreases in this type of revenue. Treated localities respond by reducing spending on law enforcement and administrative services. We further study how cities with different degrees of autonomy vary in their response. Cities in home rule states (i.e. cities with more autonomy) react more swiftly by raising other taxes, and ultimately, they recover more quickly in terms of total revenue. A regression discontinuity analysis of cities in Illinois shows that this effect of local autonomy is causal: cities conferred home rule status due to a population threshold have less revenue volatility and stronger municipal bond ratings.

WORKING PAPERS

Racial Discrimination in Federal Sentencing: Evidence from Drug Mandatory Minimums, December 2018

I test for racial discrimination in the criminal justice system by analyzing abnormal bunching in the distribution of crack-cocaine amounts used in federal sentencing. I compare cases sentenced before and after the Fair Sentencing Act, a 2010 law that changed the 10-year mandatory minimum threshold for crack-cocaine from 50g to 280g. First, I find that after 2010, there is a sharp increase in the fraction of cases sentenced at 280g (the point that now triggers a 10-year mandatory minimum), and that this increase is disproportionately large for black and Hispanic offenders. Using data from multiple stages in the criminal justice system, I show that this increase is driven by prosecutorial discretion, specifically as used by about 20-30% of prosecutors. Moreover, the fraction of cases at 280g falls in 2013 when evidentiary standards become stricter. Finally, the racial disparity in the increase cannot

be explained by differences in education, sex, age, criminal history, seized drug amount, or other elements of the crime, but it can be almost entirely explained by a measure of state-level racial animus. These results shed light on the role of prosecutorial discretion and racial discrimination as causes of racial disparities in sentencing.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Prof. John Haltiwanger, Pathways Internship, U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-present
Research Assistant, Profs. Daniel Shoag & Erich Muehlegger, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, 2013-2014
Research Assistant/Programmer, Mathematica Policy Research, 2012-2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Current Issues in American Economic Policy, University of Maryland, Winter 2018

AWARDS & HONORS

Roger and Alicia Betancourt Fellowship in Applied Economics, University of Maryland, 2018
Economics Department Third Year Paper Prize, University of Maryland, 2017
Allan G. Gruchy Graduate Fellowship in Economics, University of Maryland, 2017
Dean's Research Initiative Travel Grant, University of Maryland, 2017
Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2017
BSOS Research Interaction Day for Graduate Students Grant, University of Maryland, 2017
Graduate Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2014-2015
The Harry Landreth Economics Prize, Centre College, 2012

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2019: American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Meeting (planned); Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting (planned)
2018: Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting; Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference; APPAM DC Student Conference
2017: APPAM Fall Research Conference; Spatial Economics Research Centre Conference
2016: SEA Annual Meeting

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for *Journal of Human Resources*