CURRICULUM VITAE
David Titus

Cornell University	dwt45@cornell.edu
Department of Economics	https://davidwdtitus.github.io/davidtitus
435 Uris Hall, 109 Tower Road	https://economics.cornell.edu/david-titus
Ithaca, NY 14853	+1 (585) 485-8255

EDUCATION
Cornell University

PhD Candidate in Economics	(Expected) 2020-2026
Master of Arts	December 2023

Binghamton University, State University of New York

Bachelor of Science in Economics	December 2019
Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics	December 2019

Summa cum laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Labor Economics, Economics of Immigration, Economics of Education

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES
Michèle Belot (Chair)
Frances Perkins Professor of Industrial and Labor Relations
Professor of Economics, Cornell University
mb2693@cornell.edu

Francine Blau (Co-Chair)
Frances Perkins Professor Emeritus of Industrial and Labor Relations
Professor of Economics, Cornell University
fdb4@cornell.edu

Lawrence Kahn (Committee Member)
Braunstein Family Professor Emeritus of Industrial and Labor Relations
Professor of Economics, Cornell University
lmk12@cornell.edu

Gary Fields (Teaching Assistant Supervisor)
The John P. Windmuller Professor Emeritus of International and Comparative Labor
Professor of Economics, Cornell University
gsf2@cornell.edu

PRESENTATIONS

APPAM Fall Research Conference, Seattle, WA	November 14, 2025
Cornell Labor Economics Workshop, Ithaca, NY	October 27, 2025
Midwest Economics Association, Kansas City, MO	March 22, 2025
Academy of Economics and Finance, Pensacola, FL	February 13, 2025
Cornell Labor Work-in-Progress Seminar, Ithaca, NY	Fall 2024, Spring 2025

CURRENT RESEARCH

Job Market Paper
Immigration Policies and Human Capital: The Impact on Undocumented College Attendance

I estimate the impact of Universal E-Verify laws on the college attendance of undocumented Hispanics in the United States. To do so, I implement a series of event studies that account for staggered adoption over time, and I use a random forest algorithm as my primary approach for predicting undocumented status. My results indicate that Universal E-Verify laws lower the college attendance of undocumented Hispanics ages 18-24 by about 3.7 percentage points. This is a substantial effect: only 15.7 percent of undocumented Hispanics ages 18-24 in treated states were enrolled in college following the passage of the laws. This effect is robust to using logical imputation on non-citizen Hispanics to proxy for undocumented immigrants, using a logit model instead of random forest, testing for migration spillover effects on bordering states, and considering potentially confounding impacts of other state-level policies. I develop a theoretical model that explains the mechanisms through which Universal E-Verify affects college education, and I test this model's implications. I find suggestive evidence that the effect is driven by a negative labor market shock on undocumented adults ages 25-54, which likely leads to worse schooling for their children and renders college less attainable. These findings indicate that employment restrictions targeting working-age undocumented adults hinder the human capital development of undocumented youth.

Works in Progress
Policies, Prejudice, and the Residual Wage Gap between Refugees and Natives

I explore possible explanations for the residual wage gap between refugees and natives in Germany. I first demonstrate that most of the increased wage gap compared to previous cohorts is not primarily attributable to increased income inequality: a Juhn, Murphy and Pierce (1993) decomposition reveals that residual price changes explain only a small portion of the increased residual gap. I then estimate the impact of prejudice and the minimum wage. While I find limited evidence that prejudice increases the residual wage gap, my results indicate that average prejudice and prejudice at the upper tail of the distribution negatively impacts refugees. This finding diverges from Becker's model on the "marginal" prejudiced employer, but it is consistent with alternative theories, such as prejudice by customers, or lower reservation wages due to increased job search costs in a prejudiced environment. I also find evidence that increases in the minimum wage bite across regions within Germany lower the residual wage gap without affecting the residual employment gap. Finally, I find that refugees in more prejudiced regions invest more in integration courses and language acquisition. However, refugees in these regions do not earn higher wages, suggesting that prejudice may mitigate potential returns to assimilation.

Do Integration Courses Alleviate Refugee Downgrading? Evidence from Germany

I examine the impact of the German for Professional Purposes course on the labor market outcomes and human capital of recent refugees in Germany. I focus on language acquisition, employment, skill level, and wages as my key outcomes. I further investigate how the returns to the course are impacted by anti-refugee prejudice. I also test for spillover effects within refugee households. Estimates indicate that this course has remained an effective tool in improving refugee language acquisition. This finding is in the wake of a 2015 crisis that led to a sudden, unexpected, and large influx of asylum seekers, increased prejudice against refugees, settlement policy changes, and a cohort for which the course was not specifically designed. I find evidence that increased prejudice may lower the return to the course. I fail to find evidence for within-household spillovers. My results imply that professional training and language courses can remain an effective policy tool, even in the event of large unexpected crises and upheaval.

Policy Impacts on Gender Gaps Across Countries

Ongoing project with Francine Blau, Lawrence Kahn, Leonardo Peñaloza-Pacheco, Freddy Bachmann, and Helen Burkhardt.

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE
Cornell University   Summer 2023 – Summer 2025
  Graduate RA for Professor Francine Blau

Binghamton University, State University of New York   Spring 2019 – Spring 2020
  Undergraduate RA for Professor Plamen Nikolov

Cato Institute (Internship)   Summer 2019

Past Research Assistant Projects
Skill Downgrading Among Refugees and Economic Immigrants in Germany: Evidence from the
Syrian Refugee Crisis (IZA Discussion Paper No. 15426, July 2022)

With Plamen Nikolov and Leila Salarpour. Worked on project while an undergraduate RA at Binghamton University.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE
Introductory Microeconomics (ECON 1110, Cornell University)   Winter 2024
  Teaching Assistant for Senior Lecturer Jennifer Wissink

Economics of Wages and Employment (ILRLE 2400, Cornell University)   Spring 2023
  Teaching Assistant for Professor Gary Fields

Introductory Microeconomics (ECON 1110, Cornell University)   Fall 2022
  Teaching Assistant for Senior Lecturer Stephanie Thomas

Economics of Wages and Employment (ILRLE 2400, Cornell University)   Spring 2022
  Teaching Assistant for Professor George Jakubson

Public Finance (ECON 4260, Cornell University)   Fall 2021
  Teaching Assistant for Senior Lecturer Jennifer Wissink

Microeconomic Theory (ECON 360, Binghamton University)   Fall 2018
  Teaching Assistant for Professor David Slichter

OTHER TEACHING-RELATED EXPERIENCE
Grading Assistant (ECON 4260, Cornell University)   Fall 2022, Fall 2023

Tutor in Economics and Mathematics (Varsity Tutors)   Spring 2020

Tutor (Educational Opportunity Program, Binghamton University)   Spring 2018 – Fall 2019

AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS
Sage Fellowship (Cornell University)   2025-2026
Graduate School Conference Travel Grant (Cornell University)   2025
Sage Fellowship (Cornell University)   2020-2021
Distinguished Achievement in Economics (Binghamton University)   2019

PROGRAMMING: Stata, R, MATLAB, LaTeX

Last Updated: December 10, 2025