

Contact Information

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The University of Chicago

Harris School of Public Policy

1307 E 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637**Fields**

Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics, Public Economics, Political Economy

Education

The University of Chicago

Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy

Job Market Paper: “*Optimal Monitoring and Bureaucrat Adjustments*”

Thesis Title: “Essays on Incentives in Public Institutions”

Expected Completion Date: June 2021

M.P.P. with honors, The University of Chicago, 2015

B.Sc. Economics and Physics, The University of Michigan, 2009

References

Professor Canice Prendergast (co-chair)

Booth School of Business

canice.prendergast@chicagobooth.edu

Professor Konstantin Sonin (co-chair)

Harris School of Public Policy

ksonin@uchicago.edu

Professor Christopher Blattman

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blattman@uchicago.edu

Professor Luis Martinez

Harris School of Public Policy

luismartinez@uchicago.edu

Research Experience and Other Employment

2017-20 Professor Canice Prendergast, Research Assistant

2014-15 Professor Jeffrey Grogger, Research Assistant

2014 Professor Marianne Bertrand, Research Assistant

2014 Professor Christian Hansen, Research Assistant

2010-13 Abt Associates Inc., Analyst (Associate Analyst, 2010-11)

Teaching Experience*Instructor*

2017 Math Camp Algebra (Master's), Instructor

Teaching Assistant

2019 Microeconomics I (PhD), Professor Francisco Espinosa

2019	Analytical Politics for International Development (Master's), Professor Ethan Bueno de Mesquita
2019	Math Camp Calculus and Algebra
2016-18	Decisions and Organizations (Master's), Professors Wioletta Dziuda, Pablo Montagnes, Kara Ross Camarena
2017	Microeconomics II (Master's), Professor Konstantin Sonin
2016	Political Economy I (PhD), Professor Scott Ashworth
2016	Program Evaluation (Master's), Professor Ofer Malamud

Scholarships, Fellowships, and Research Grants

2019	Becker Friedman Institute Development Economics Initiative Research Grant, Principal Investigator (\$7,050)
2018	Economic and Development Institutions research grant, UKAID, co-Principal Investigator (£18,086)
2018	Tata Centre for Development research grant, co-Principal Investigator (\$50,274)
2017	Committee on South Asian Studies Pre-Dissertation Fellowship (\$4,800)
2015-2021	Harris School of Public Policy Ph.D. Fellowship
2013-2015	Harris School of Public Policy Dean's Scholarship

Job Market Paper

“Optimal Monitoring and Bureaucrat Adjustments”

Monitoring policies designed to maximize deterrence must account for attempts by agents to evade detection. This paper examines the strategic responses of bureaucrats, who implement India's employment guarantee program, as their expectations of being audited change. Exploiting random assignment to audit timing over multiple waves (without replacement), I find the rate of deterrence for misappropriated expenditures is increasing in bureaucrats' expectations of being audited. In addition, bureaucrats evade detection by adjusting the timing and type of expenditure to misappropriate. Applying a model of Bayesian persuasion, I analyze how information communicated on the likelihood of being audited should be designed. I estimate a sufficient statistic from the model to solve for the optimal signal and analyze welfare under counterfactuals.

Concentrated incentives, i.e. notifying of audit timing in advance, would have persuaded bureaucrats to misappropriate USD 35m less in expenditures (16% of average annual expenditures) when compared to dispersed incentives, i.e. messages are uninformative and audit timing is unpredictable.

Work in Progress

“Improving Property Tax Collection: Reducing Property Owner and Monitor Incentives to Misreport” (with Yusuf Neggers, pilot phase)

“The Value-Add of Bureaucrats Along the Hierarchy to Collective Organizational Performance”

“Informal Relationships between Citizens and Bureaucrats, and Access to Public Resources”

Pre-Doctoral Publications

“Assessing the Costs and Effects of Antiretroviral Therapy Task Shifting From Physicians to Other Health Professionals in Ethiopia” (with Johns, B., Asfaw, E., Bekele, A., Minior, T., Kebede, A., & Palen, J.) *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes*, 65(4), 2014.

“Lessons Learned from Stakeholder-Driven Sustainability Analysis of Six National HIV Programmes” (with Katz, I., Glandon, D., Kargbo, B., Ombam, R., Singh, S., Osika, J. S.) *Health Policy and Planning*, 29 (3), 379–387, 2014.

“Patient Satisfaction with Task Shifting of Antiretroviral Services in Ethiopia: Implications for Universal Health Coverage” (with Asfaw, E., Dominis, S., Palen, J. G. H., Bekele, A., Kebede, A., & Johns, B.) *Health Policy and Planning*, 29 (suppl 2), ii50–ii58, 2014.