

FRANCESCO RUGGIERI

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Office Contact Information

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Education

University of Chicago , Postdoctoral Scholar (prior to the academic job market)	<i>2024-present</i>
University of Chicago , Ph.D. Economics	<i>2024</i>
London School of Economics and Political Science , M.Sc. Economics	<i>2016</i>
Università Bocconi , B.Sc. Economics and Social Sciences	<i>2015</i>
Northwestern University , Exchange Student	<i>Fall 2014</i>

References

Professor Michael Greenstone University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics mgreenst@uchicago.edu	Professor Magne Mogstad University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics magne.mogstad@gmail.com
Professor Alexander Torgovitsky University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics atorgovitsky@gmail.com	

Research and Teaching Fields

Primary:	Public Finance, Urban Economics
Secondary:	Applied Microeconomics

Job Market Paper

Overlapping Jurisdictions and the Provision of Local Public Goods in U.S. Metropolitan Areas

Abstract: Local governments in the United States are vertically differentiated: in a given location, multiple overlapping jurisdictions provide distinct local public services and draw revenue from shared portions of the property tax base. This paper estimates the fiscal spillovers generated by this structure and proposes a mechanism that internalizes them in local policy choice. I assemble a new georeferenced dataset covering the universe of local government boundaries and nominal property tax rates nationwide over the past two decades. Using a dynamic regression discontinuity design, I estimate fiscal spillovers from narrowly approved property tax referenda. To extrapolate beyond effects identified at the approval threshold, I develop a spatial equilibrium model with overlapping jurisdictions and majority voting over the provision of local public goods. I use the model to quantify spillovers for all school districts and municipal governments in the United States and find sizable effects. I then evaluate a policy that (i) informs voters about cross-jurisdiction spillovers and (ii) applies symmetric intergovernmental transfers (taxes or subsidies) upon approval of a spending change. The counterfactual regime yields aggregate welfare gains.

Working Papers

Dynamic Regression Discontinuity: An Event-Study Approach

Under review

Abstract: I propose a novel argument to identify economically interpretable intertemporal treatment effects in dynamic regression discontinuity designs (RDDs). Specifically, I develop a dynamic potential outcomes model and reformulate two assumptions from the difference-in-differences literature—no anticipation and common trends—to attain point identification of cutoff-specific impulse responses. The estimand of each target parameter can be expressed as the sum of two static RDD contrasts, thereby allowing for nonparametric estimation and inference with standard local polynomial methods. I also propose a nonparametric approach to aggregate treatment effects across calendar time and treatment paths, leveraging a limited path independence restriction to reduce the dimensionality of the parameter space. I apply this method to estimate the dynamic effects of school district expenditure authorizations on housing prices in Wisconsin.

Structural Extrapolation in Regression Discontinuity Designs with an Application to School Expenditure Referenda (with Austin Feng)

Under review

Abstract: We propose a structural approach to extrapolate average partial effects away from the cutoff in regression discontinuity designs (RDDs). Our focus is on applications that exploit closely contested school district referenda to estimate the effects of changes in education spending on local economic outcomes. We embed these outcomes in a spatial equilibrium model of local jurisdictions in which fiscal policy is determined by majority rule voting. This integration provides a microfoundation for the running variable—the share of voters who approve a ballot initiative—and enables identification of structural parameters using RDD coefficients. We then leverage the model to simulate the effects of counterfactual referenda over a broad range of proposed spending changes. These scenarios imply realizations of the running variable away from the threshold, allowing extrapolation of RDD estimates to nonmarginal referenda. Applying the method to school expenditure ballot measures in Wisconsin, we document substantial heterogeneity in housing price capitalization across the approval margin.

The Geography of the U.S. Property Tax

Abstract: I construct a novel, granular georeferenced dataset on the universe of local governments in the United States and their property tax rates from the early 2000s to 2022. Using this dataset, I present new descriptive insights on the geography of the property tax. First, property tax rates exhibit substantial variation within states, surpassing that of any other local tax. Second, rates are higher in locations where a greater number of jurisdictions overlap and thus share tax base. Third, rates are higher in areas with larger dispersion in property values and greater racial and ethnic heterogeneity. Fourth, new local taxing jurisdictions are more likely to be formed in locations where the distribution of income is more even and dispersion in housing values is lower.

The Intergenerational Effects of Health Shocks: Location Choice, Homeownership, and Family Formation (with Elin Colmsjö and Matteo Saccarola)

Abstract: We leverage Danish administrative data to study intra-household responses to unanticipated health shocks affecting the parents of working-age adults. Using a research design that compares similarly aged individuals whose parents experience a stroke at different times, we find that parental health shocks lead to reductions in adult children's income, lower rates of homeownership, increased geographic proximity to parents, and decreased likelihood of marriage. Heterogeneity analyses show that the non-pecuniary consequences are more pronounced among women. We then focus on the location margin and develop a model of residential location choice that features distance from parents and health shocks. By linking our reduced-form estimates to the model, we recover policy-relevant parameters that allow us to quantify the intergenerational consequences of parental health shocks operating through residential adjustments.

Work in Progress

sTIFled Budgets: The Welfare Implications of Tax Increment Financing Districts

Estimating the Production Function of Local Governments in the United States

The Incidence of Property Tax Changes on Homeowners and Renters: Evidence from Italy

Teaching Experience

University of Chicago

Honors Econometrics (undergraduate)	Lecturer	Winter 2022
Econometrics (undergraduate)	Lecturer	Spring 2021
Honors Econometrics (undergraduate)	TA for Alexander Torgovitsky	Winter 2021
Applied Microeconometrics (graduate)	TA for Alexander Torgovitsky	Autumn 2020
Honors Econometrics (undergraduate)	TA for Peter Hull	Spring 2020
Honors Econometrics (undergraduate)	TA for Alexander Torgovitsky	Winter 2020
Econometrics (undergraduate)	TA for Christopher Roark	Autumn 2019

London School of Economics and Political Science

Microeconomic Principles (undergraduate)	TA for Erik Eyster	Lent 2016
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Scholarships and Grants

Metcalf Summer Internship Program Grant (\$6,320), Becker Friedman Institute for Economics	2024
C.V. Starr Scholarship, University of Chicago Department of Economics	2023–2024
C. Lowell Harriss Dissertation Fellowship, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy	2023
Metcalf Summer Internship Program Grant (\$20,000), Becker Friedman Institute for Economics	2023
Progress of Ideas Grant (\$7,500), Robert Schalkenbach Foundation	2023
Data Acquisition Grant (\$3,000), University of Chicago Department of Economics	2022
Neubauer Fellowship, University of Chicago	2018–2023
Social Sciences Division Fellowship, University of Chicago	2018–2023

Awards

Wayne C. Booth Graduate Student Prize for Excellence in Teaching, University of Chicago	2023
Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, University of Chicago Department of Economics	2021
Teaching Award for Excellent Feedback and Communication, London School of Economics	2016

Seminars, Presentations, and Discussions

National Tax Association 118th Annual Conference	2025
Brookings 14th Annual Municipal Finance Conference	2025
Syracuse-Chicago Webinar on Property Tax Administration and Design	2024

Refereeing Activity

American Economic Review, European Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics

Professional Service

University of Chicago, Department of Economics

Organizer of the Chicago Causal Inference Student Conference	2024
Co-organizer of the Student Applied Microeconomics Lunch	2021–2023
Organizer of the Difference-in-Differences Reading Group	2022
Cohort Representative in the Graduate Student Liaison	2020–2021
Co-organizer of the Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference (EMCON)	2020
Organizer of the Structural Econometrics Reading Group	2020

Prior Academic Employment

Research Assistant for Michael Greenstone, University of Chicago	2019–2021
Research Assistant for Eric Zwick, University of Chicago	2019–2020
Research Professional, Princeton University Department of Economics	2018
Research Professional, University of Chicago Booth School of Business	2016–2018

Additional Information

Citizenship Italy

Programming Skills Matlab, Python, R, Stata

Languages Italian (Native), English (Fluent), French (Good)