

Gretchen C. Sileo

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1415 N Taft Street, #484, Arlington, VA 22201

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Washington, DC
Ph.D. Candidate Economics
M.A. Economics
Advisors: Nathan Miller and John Rust

August 2017–Present

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Troy, NY
M.S. Applied Mathematics
B.S. Mathematics and Psychology, Minor in Economics

August 2010–May 2014

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Infrastructure Investment as a Dynamic Discrete Choice: Evidence from Kentucky Water Systems”

I study the ability of utility managers to maintain properly functioning infrastructure through investment. Using a newly collected dataset, I establish that proactive investment, completed in advance of infrastructure failures, and reactive investment are different and have separate effects. I incorporate this distinction into a dynamic discrete choice model of utility manager infrastructure investment decisions. Through simulations, I determine that water infrastructure investment levels are currently too low to successfully mitigate the decline of infrastructure quality. The results reveal that the difference in project types is important for designing policies to prevent widespread infrastructure decline. In this setting, I find that proactive investments are more efficient—the same expenditure yields a larger quality improvement—but policies promoting only proactive investments can lead to unintended inequality across systems. Policies encouraging reactive investment provide a reliable path to recovery for struggling systems and enable all systems to maintain quality consistently above acceptable levels.

“The Evolution of Concentration and Markups in the United States Cement Industry” with Nathan Miller, Matthew Osborne, and Gloria Sheu

We examine local market concentration and markups in the United States cement industry over 1974-2016. We estimate a model in which buyers use a second-score auction to procure cement from spatially differentiated plants. The model matches aggregated economic outcomes observed in the data, and the implied transportation costs and shipping distances are consistent with external sources. We infer local market concentration and markups from the model. At the county-level, the average HHI rises from 1,890 to 2,800 during the sample period. Average markups increase modestly, but prices do not rise. We attribute the changes to a technological innovation—the precalciner kiln—that lowered marginal costs, increased plant-level capacities, and also contributed to an industry shakeout in which many plants closed.

WORKING PAPERS

“An Empirical Study of Inmate Telecommunication Service Procurement” with Nathan Miller and Marleen Marra

“A Dynamic Discrete Choice Model of Electronic Toll Adoption in the U.S.”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Georgetown University
Research Assistant to Professor Nathan Miller, Washington, DC
Inmate Telecommunication Services Procurement Project

Fall 2021–Spring 2022

Research Assistant to Professor Nathan Miller, Washington, DC
Concentration and Markups in the Cement Industry Project

*Fall 2019,
Fall 2020–Spring 2021*

Research Assistant to Professor Dan Cao, Washington, DC
Bank Risk-Taking Project

Fall 2018

U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
Graduate Economics Intern, Washington, DC

Summer 2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant

PECO-201 – Analytical Tools for Political Economics

Fall 2022

ECON-122 – Introduction to Econometrics

Fall 2018, Spring 2019

ECON-121 – Economic Statistics

Spring 2020

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Senior Consultant, Business Risk, Boston, MA

Spring 2016–Winter 2016

- Facilitated a post-merger integration for one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies; owning the process of data integration for thousands of pharmaceutical products and their associated supply chains
- Analyzed pharmaceutical data and successfully converted pricing and costs of products from a legacy SAP system to a custom-made product tracking system
- Solicited retirements and collected data from key client stakeholders including the developers of the product tracking system, administrators of the SAP system, and Directors of Tax, Inventory, and Supply Chain

Consultant, Business Risk, Boston, MA

Fall 2014–Spring 2016

- Assessed business processes for three strategic clients in the financial services industry
- Managed offshore team to assign tasks, review work, and communicate progress with onshore management

SKILLS

Programming Languages: Python, C++, SQL

Statistical Software: PyData Stack (pandas, numpy, scipy, scikit-learn), Stata, MATLAB, R

Other Software: Python (numba, joblib, geopandas, shapely, selenium, requests)

Other Computer Skills: LaTeX, SAP, Microsoft Office Suite

AWARDS

Georgetown University Summer Dissertation Fellowship

Summer 2020

Georgetown University Graduate School Fellowship

Fall 2017–Spring 2018

Deloitte Outstanding Performance Award

Spring 2015

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Summa Cum Laude

Spring 2014

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Founders Award for Excellence

Fall 2013