

Gretchen Sileo

Gladfelter Hall (025-222)
1115 W. Polett Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Email : gretchen.sileo@temple.edu
Website: <https://gretchensileo.com/>

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Temple University

Assistant Professor of Economics

Philadelphia, PA

2023–Present

EDUCATION

Georgetown University

Ph.D. Economics

M.A. Economics

Washington, DC

2017–2023

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

M.S. Applied Mathematics

B.S. Mathematics and Psychology, Minor in Economics

Troy, NY

2010–2014

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Proactive and Reactive Infrastructure Investment

Maintaining infrastructure requires investment. Faced with uncertain quality degradation, managers can either invest proactively to prevent failure or reactively to address problems. Using a new dataset on drinking water systems, I construct and estimate a dynamic discrete choice model of infrastructure investment. Simulation results indicate that investment is currently too low to prevent system quality decline. Proactive-promoting policies facilitate the prevention of most health-based violations but leave some systems vulnerable to extreme quality decline. By contrast, reactive-promoting policies lead to milder but pervasive violations. A policy that increases proactive investment and reserves a safety net of reactive support enables all managers to sustain functional infrastructure.

Technology and Market Power: The United States Cement Industry, 1974-2019

with Nathan Miller, Matthew Osborne, and Gloria Sheu

We examine the evolution of market power in the cement industry over more than four decades using a structural model of procurement. The model matches aggregated outcomes in the data, and implies transportation costs, shipping distances, and demand elasticities that are consistent with external sources. Evaluating county-level outcomes throughout the contiguous United States, we find that market concentration and markups increase but that prices do not rise. We attribute these patterns to a technological innovation—the precalciner kiln—that lowered variable costs, increased plant-level capacities and economies of scale, and contributed to an industry shakeout in which many plants closed.

The Price That Inmates Pay

with Marleen Mara and Nathan Miller

Incarcerated individuals in the United States purchase goods and services from monopoly vendors selected by their correctional authority. We study the price that inmates pay for phone calls, which the Federal Communications Commission has characterized as “exorbitant.” We specify an auction model of procurement and estimate it using data from public records requests. Our results indicate that market power contributes to high prices but that more important are kickbacks (or “commissions”) that providers give to the correctional authority. Regulation that substantially lowers price and eliminates commissions can more than double inmate surplus and simultaneously enable providers to recover their costs.

Low-Carbon Investment and Climate Policy

with Sarah Armitage, Nathan Miller, and Matthew Osborne

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Temple University

Philadelphia, PA

Instructor

2023-Present

- ECON-3536 – Economics of American Industry
- ECON-3503 – Introduction to Econometrics

Georgetown University

Washington, DC

Teaching Assistant

2018–2023

- ECON-433 – Public Sector Economics
- PECO-201 – Analytical Tools for Political Economics
- ECON-121 – Economic Statistics
- ECON-122 – Introduction to Econometrics

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Georgetown University

Washington, DC

Research Assistant to Professor Nathan Miller

2019–2021

Research Assistant to Professor Dan Cao

2018

U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division

Washington, DC

Graduate Economics Intern

2019

Framingham State University

Framingham, MA

Professional Mathematics Tutor

2017

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Boston, MA

Senior Consultant, Business Risk

2016

Consultant, Business Risk

2014–2016

HONORS AND AWARDS

Georgetown University 26th Razin Prize, Best Graduate Student Paper

2023

Georgetown University Summer Dissertation Fellowship

2020

Georgetown University Graduate School Fellowship

2017–2018

Deloitte Outstanding Performance Award

2015

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Summa Cum Laude

2014

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Founders Award for Excellence

2013

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2023 *Southern Economic Association; Women in Empirical Microeconomics Conference; Seminar in Water Economics onLLine; International Industrial Organization Conference; The Ohio State University; Temple University; University of Wisconsin-Madison; Baruch College, Zicklin School of Business; Arizona State University; U.S. Department of Justice; U.S. Department of Transportation — Office of the Inspector General; Federal Trade Commission; Center for Naval Analyses; Charles River Associates*

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