

JACOB LIGHT

+1.202.734.0061 jdlight@stanford.edu

EDUCATION

Stanford University

Ph.D. in Economics

2018 - 2024 (*Expected*)

- Fields: Labor and Public Economics
- Dissertation: Essays in the Economics of Education

University of Michigan

Bachelor of Science, Mathematics and Economics (Highest Honors)

2011 - 2015

- Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa (inducted as a junior)

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Prof. Caroline Hoxby (Primary)

Economics Department, Stanford University
(650) 723-9678
choxby@stanford.edu

Prof. Nick Bloom

Economics Department, Stanford University
(650) 725-7836
nbloom@stanford.edu

Prof. Eric Hanushek

Hoover Institution, Stanford University
(650) 736-0942
hanushek@stanford.edu

Prof. Petra Persson

Economics Department, Stanford University
(650) 723-4116
perssonp@stanford.edu

PUBLISHED WORK

SES-Achievement Gaps in Historical Perspective, (with Eric Hanushek, Paul Peterson, Laura Talpey, and Ludger Woessmann), Fall 2022, *Education Finance and Policy*

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Labor Demand and the Supply of College Courses [\[Working Paper\]](#)

[NTD - abstract]

Lifelong Learning and Displaced Worker Retraining (with Eric Hanushek, Simon Janssen, and Lisa Simon)

[NTD - abstract]

How Do College Courses Affect Students' Post-Graduation Opportunities? (with Merrill Warnick)

In the United States, college students have substantial discretion over the courses they take in college. Often, only one-third of courses a student takes are in their major and the remaining courses are at the student's discretion. This project studies how the substantial variation in college course selection impacts students' outcomes in the labor market. Using administrative data containing transcript-to-employment linked records for all students attending public universities in Texas, we investigate how a student's college course composition impacts their career outcomes. First, we use machine learning techniques to demonstrate that non-major courses explain up to [NTD]% of the unexplained variation in occupation choice among students with the same major. To estimate causal effect of

non-major courses on a student's occupation choice, we study course selection and labor outcome effects resulting from natural experiments in the form of changing distribution requirements at Texas universities.

Measuring instructor value-added at the college level (with Merrill Warnick)

[NTD - abstract]

The labor and education effects of employer-sponsored higher education benefits (with Nick Gebbia)

PRESENTATIONS

2023: All-California Labor Economics Conference, CSQIEP Virtual Seminar, Stanford Applied Economics Workshop

2022: AERA Annual Meeting, Stanford Applied Economics Workshop

TEACHING AND RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

ECON 43: Introduction to Financial Decision-Making *Spring 2021*

Outstanding TA Award

ECON 144: Family and Society *Winter 2021*

Outstanding TA Award

ECON 1: Principles of Economics *Fall 2020*

Research Assistant for Professor Caroline Hoxby *2019 - 2020*

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Leonard W. Ely and Shirley R. Ely Graduate Student Fellowship *2023*

Stanford IRiSS Dissertation Fellowship \$11,000 *2023*

NAEd/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship Semifinalist and Alternate *2023*

Stanford H&S Graduate Research Opportunities Grant (with Merrill Warnick) \$5,000 *2023*

George Shultz Graduate Research Fellowship (with Merrill Warnick) \$3,000 *2022*

Patricia Liu McKenna and Kenneth McKenna Graduate Fellowship *2021-22*

Stanford Outstanding Teaching Award *Spring 2021*

George Shultz Graduate Research Fellowship \$12,500 *2021*

Stanford Outstanding Teaching Award *Winter 2021*

Stanford IRiSS Research Data Grant \$2,000 *2020*

Stanford IRiSS Center for Computational Social Science Grant \$1,500 *2020*

Stanford Economics First-Year Ph.D. Fellowship *2018*

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention *2018*

Ferrando Honors Prize, University of Michigan Economics Department *2015*

Sims Honors Scholarship, University of Michigan Economics Department *2015*

Gerald Ford Public Service Prize, University of Michigan *2015*

Outstanding Achievement in Math, University of Michigan Math Department *2015*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Engineering Intern - Core Data Science, Meta *2021 - 2022*
Menlo Park, CA

Senior Research Analyst, The Brattle Group *2015 - 2018*
Washington, DC

SERVICE

Advanced Tax Preparer , IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance	<i>2015 - 2021</i>
President , Stanford Graduate LGBTQ+ Affinity Group (GradQ)	<i>2019 - 2022</i>
Applied Economics Workshop Coordinator , Stanford Economics Department	<i>2020 - 2022</i>
Social Chair, Admitted Student Day Liaison , Stanford Economics Department	<i>2019 - 2020</i>

CITIZENSHIP

United States