JACOB LIGHT

+1.202.734.0061   jdlight@stanford.edu

EDUCATION

Stanford University   *2018 - 2024 (Expected)*
Ph.D. in Economics

- Fields: Labor and Public Economics

- Dissertation: Essays in the Economics of Education

University of Michigan   *2011 - 2015*
Bachelor of Science, Mathematics and Economics (Highest Honors)

- 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

Student demand and the supply of college courses [Working Paper]

Using a novel "course catalog" dataset with course-level detail from over 450 US universities, I establish that universities are highly inelastic to shifting student preferences for academic fields or skills. This inelasticity manifests in two principal ways: the university's reluctance to adjust the quantity of courses supplied, particularly in the face of declining demand, and the persistence of which courses are offered over long periods. Using Natural Language Processing techniques, I next illustrate that fields subtly modify course content to resonate with students' evolving interests, particularly towards current events and social justice; however, this process is extremely slow. Differences in course stickiness and content between selective and less selective institutions underscore differences in universities' objectives. Less selective institutions emphasize a vocational curriculum that prepares students for immediate labor market entry, while selective institutions emphasize topics related to current events and social justice.

Anatomy of labor market distress (with Eric Hanushek, Simon Janssen, and Lisa Simon)

Earnings losses after mass layoffs are highly skewed: a small number of workers experience catastrophic losses, while most workers recover quickly. This paper documents the heterogeneity in earnings losses after mass layoffs and the adjustments driving these differences. We study workers from firms in West Germany that closed between 2000-2005. For each laid-off worker, we create a synthetic control from similar workers with matching earnings trajectories who weren't laid off during that period. Which workers experience the greatest losses is not a priori predictable based on fixed characteristics, but is associated with post-layoff adaptability, like switching professions or relocating. Consequently, pre-layoff targeted policies to assist these workers might not be as effective as post-layoff interventions.

The importance of non-major courses in predicting college students' post-graduation outcomes (with Merrill Warnick)

Instructor value-added in higher education (with Merrill Warnick)

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

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*

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*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Engineering Intern - Core Data Science, Meta *2021*
Menlo Park, CA
Senior Research Analyst, The Brattle Group *2015 - 2018*
Washington, DC

SERVICE

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

CITIZENSHIP

United States