Alina Kovalenko

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Education

Ph.D., Economics, University of Texas at Austin, May 2020 (expected)
M.A., Economics, University of Texas at Austin, 2017
M.S., Economics, University of Colorado Denver, 2015
B.S., International Economics, Donetsk National University, 2012

Teaching and Research Fields

Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Health Economics

Working Papers

"Natural Resources and Human Capital Investment: Evidence from Texas"

This project examines the role of the local economic conditions in human capital accumulation decisions. Standard theories of human capital predict that by increasing employment opportunities and earnings, economic booms may discourage young individuals from finishing high school or attending college. On the other hand, improved family and school resources may induce demand for education and improve students? performance. In this study, I test these hypotheses by exploiting geological variation in shale deposits and timing in the onset of the boom. Using individual-level panel data on the universe of students in the public school system of Texas, I find that cohorts exposed to the local oil and gas boom during high school have lower probability of graduation, higher incidence of grade retention and lower test scores. In particular, I fins that the results are driven by the students at the bottom of the skill distribution, with similar effects for both males and females. Importantly, I show that these effects are not explained by increased in-migration and sample composition.

"Economic Development and Risky Behaviors"

Although rapid development of an area generally leads to better economic outcomes like higher standards of living and wages, it can have some negative social impacts as well. This paper documents one such externality - increased incidence of infectious diseases and risk-taking behaviors. I exploit the plausibly exogenous geographic distribution of shale deposits and the temporal expansion of the fracking activity in a difference-in-difference-style model. Using detailed county-level data from 2002-2015, I find that affected counties are associated

with higher rates of gonorrhea infections (an increase of 12%), as well as arrests for disorderly conduct and drunkenness (3% and 5% respectively). I provide suggestive evidence that these changes could be partially explained by selective in-migration and agglomeration effects.

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2019	Summer Research Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2015-present	Graduate Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2008-2012	Honors Scholarship, Donetsk National University

Conference Presentations

November 2019 National Tax Association Annual Conference (scheduled)

Research Experience

2017-present Research Assistant to John Hatfield, University of Texas at Austin

Teaching Experience

University of Texas at Austin

Spring 2018-19	Economic Principles of Managerial Decisions, Teaching Assistant for John Hatfield
Spring 2017	Energy Economics, Teaching Assistant for Michael Sadler
Fall 2016	International Trade and Investment, Teaching Assistant for Shalah Mostashari
Summer 2016	Microeconomic Theory, Teaching Assistant for Matt Clements
Spring 2016	Introduction to Macroeconomics, Teaching Assistant for Shalah Mostashari
Fall 2015	Introduction to Macroeconomics, Teaching Assistant for Michael Sadler

University of Colorado Denver

Spring 2015	Introduction to Econometrics, Teaching Assistant for Andrea Velasquez
Fall 2014	Introduction to Econometrics, Teaching Assistant for Ryan Brown
Spring 2014	Principles of Microeconomics, Teaching Assistant for Claire Duquennois
Fall 2013	Intermediate Macroeconomics, Teaching Assistant for Annie Walker

Skills

Languages: English (fluent), Ukrainian (native), Russian (native), Spanish (intermediate)

Programs: Stata, SAS (Certified Base Programmer, 2013), ArcGIS, Matlab