

MATTHEW BUSH

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

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Fields

Macroeconomics and Labor Economics

Education

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana USA: 2017 to present

Expected Completion Date: July 2023

B.A. in Economics (summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa), Marietta College, Ohio USA, 2017

References

Bulent Guler (Chair)
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Christian Matthes
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Rupal Kamdar
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Teaching Experience

Associate Instructor

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|---|------------------------|
| • Econ-E 201: Introduction to Microeconomics | Fall 2018, Spring 2019 |
| • Econ-E 202: Introduction to Macroeconomic | Spring 2022 |
| • Econ-E 317: Economic Growth and Development | Fall 2019, 2020 |

Teaching Assistant

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| • Econ-E 201: Introduction to Microeconomics | Fall 2017, Spring 2018, 2020 |
| • Econ-B 251: Fundamentals of Economics for Business I | Spring 2021, Fall 2021, 2022 |

Programming

R, FORTRAN, MATLAB, L^AT_EX

Working Papers

High-Skill Labor Cyclicalities and the Role of Pay Type (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: The cyclical volatility of hours per worker is lower among college graduates than those without a college degree. I show empirically that accounting for pay type reduces this volatility gap by 44%. Non-college graduates are more than twice as likely to be paid by the hour, and hourly workers have more cyclically volatile hours per worker than salaried workers. The cyclical volatility of employment, on the other hand, is higher for salaried workers. The pandemic-induced rise of salaried work could thus lead to a shift in the composition of aggregate labor hours volatility toward larger employment fluctuations. Using a model with search and matching in which a matched worker and firm bargain over the intensive hours margin, I show how pay type itself can lead to hours per worker being more volatile among hourly workers. When pay is flexible, pay type is irrelevant. A sticky salary, however, distorts the bargaining process differently than a sticky wage.

Correlation in Spouses' Employment Status and the Value of a Second Earner

Abstract: Among both-employed couples, the cross-correlation of transitions into unemployment is positive. Similarly, unemployed couples tend to find jobs in the same period. In this paper, I document that the correlations in spouses' employment transitions are not only positive but increasing over the last 45 years. The doubling of the share of same-occupation couples explains some but not all of this trend. I then use a quantitative model of household labor supply with labor frictions to measure the impact of this trend on households' wellbeing and labor supply. As spouses' employment transitions become more correlated, their unemployment spells become more overlapping, reducing the marginal benefit of a second earner. As a result, married women's labor force participation falls by 0.6%.