

Maxwell Chomas

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Georgia State University	2018-Present
M.A., Economics, University of California, Riverside	2015-2017
B.A., Economics and Mathematics, Washington & Jefferson College	2011-2015

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health Economics, Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics

PUBLICATIONS

“A Quantitative Description of State-Level Taxation of Oil and Gas Production in the Continental U.S.” (with Yongsheng Wang and Jeremy Weber), *Energy Policy* 96: 289-301, 2016

WORKING PAPERS

“Measuring the Change in Cross-Border Shopping in Response to a Cigarette Tax: An Application Using Cellphone Tracking Data” **Job Market Paper**

I study the effect of cigarette taxes on cross-state border (cross-border) shopping in the United States of America. Data are drawn from SafeGraph cellphone tracking data over the period 2018 to 2020. This data allows alleviates previous issues in the literature such as excluding rural smokers. I argue that this exclusion led previous papers to produce an undercount of cross-border shopping behavior. I further use the data to estimate whether there is an education-based time expenditure inequality caused by an increase in cross-border shopping. This may be the case as a large portion of cigarette taxes paid by adults with lower educational attainment (Conlon et. al. 2021). To compensate for estimation bias from dynamic and heterogeneous treatment effects, I estimate the Callaway and Sant’Anna (2021) difference-in-differences model that accommodates my unique setting in which the 3 tax increases I consider become effective at different times throughout the full length of the study. I find that, in sample, the median census block group (CBG) sent 0.83 more cross-border shoppers per month in response to a cigarette tax increase. I also estimate that increases in cross-border shopping is substantially larger for those that live close to a lower-tax border. Finally, I find evidence that CBGs with more lower-educated adults send considerably more cross-border shoppers than those with few of these adults. This result suggests that cigarette tax increases may not only create education-based fiscal expenditure inequalities, but also time expenditure inequalities.

“Revisiting the Relationship between Cigarette Regulation and Prenatal Smoking” (with Michael Pesko)

We study effects of cigarette taxes and indoor smoking restrictions on prenatal smoking habits in the United States. Data are drawn from the National Vital Statistics System over the period 1994 to 2018. To compensate for estimation bias from dynamic and heterogeneous treatment effects, we estimate a modified stacked difference-in-differences model that accommodates our unique policy environment in which policies are present in different doses throughout the full length of the study. We find some evidence that indoor smoking restrictions modestly decreases maternal prenatal smoking and, contrary to previous literature, that cigarette taxes do not significantly impact maternal prenatal smoking.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Long-Run Effects of Late Degree Completion on the Racial Wage Gap” (with Seolah Kim)

“The Effect of Cigarette Regulation on Time-Use”

INVITED SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING SCHEDULED*)

2022: ASHEconomics Conference, Austin, Texas; Georgia State University PhD Student Seminar; Atlanta, Georgia; Midwest Econometrics Group Conference*, East Lansing, Michigan; Southern Economics Association Conference*, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

2021: Georgia State University PhD Student Seminar; Atlanta, Georgia; Tobacco Online Policy Seminar (Virtual); Southern Economics Association Conference, Houston, Texas; Allied Social Science Associations Meeting (Virtual).

2020: Georgia State University PhD Student Seminar; Atlanta, Georgia.

2015: Joint Mathematics Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Quantitative Economics Award, Georgia State University 2020

Outstanding GRA Award, Georgia State University 2020

2CI University Doctoral Fellowship, Georgia State University 2018-Present

Chancellor's Scholarship, University of California, Riverside 2015-2016

Phi Beta Kappa Inductee, Washington & Jefferson College 2015

The Dr. Mariano Garcia '39 Award in Mathematics, Washington & Jefferson College 2015

Presidential Scholarship, Washington & Jefferson College 2011-2015

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Professor Michael Pesko Fall 2018-Spring 2022

- Assisted in cleaning data for multiple projects involving indoor smoking and vaping restrictions, flavored-tobacco bans, tobacco taxes, and tobacco-21 regulations.
- Co-authored and performed statistical analyses for our working paper “Revisiting the Relationship between Cigarette Regulation and Prenatal Smoking”.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spelman College (Primary Instructor)
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory Spring 2021, Spring 2022

Georgia State University (Teaching Assistant)
Master's Level Econometrics Fall 2022

Spelman College (Teaching Assistant)
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory Fall 2020

University of California, Riverside (Teaching Assistant)
Introduction to Microeconomics Winter 2017, Spring 2017
Introduction to Macroeconomics Fall 2016
Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory Summer 2017

Washington & Jefferson College
Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Tutor for Mathematics Spring 2014, Fall 2014

Last Updated: September, 2022

SOFTWARE EXPERIENCE

STATA, MATLAB, Microsoft Word/Excel, L^AT_EX, R, ArgGIS, Java (basic).

REFERENCES

Professor Michael Pesko (Chair)
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Professor James Marton
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