

Maxwell Chomas

Department of Economics
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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

“Do Cigarette Tax Hikes Still Increase Cross-Border Shopping? Evidence from Cellphone Tracking Data” **Job Market Paper**

I study the effect of cigarette tax increases on cross-state border shopping in the United States. To estimate this relationship, I use high-resolution census block group-by-month cellphone tracking data from Safegraph. I estimate a Callaway and Sant’Anna (2021) difference-in-differences model that accommodates my unique setting in which the tax increases I consider become effective at different times throughout the full length of the study. I find that the median census block group (CBG) sent 1.50 more cross-border shoppers per month in response to a cigarette tax increase (40% of the pre-tax mean). I also estimate that the increase in cross-border shopping is substantially larger for those that live closer to a lower-tax border. As Conlon (2021) show, members in the group of adults that pay nearly all cigarette taxes are much more likely to have low educational attainment than the rest of the adult population. Using this to divide my sample, I find evidence that CBGs with more lower-educated adults send considerably more cross-border shoppers following tax increases than CBGs with few lower-educated adults. In sum, these results suggest that cross-border shopping remains an ongoing challenge for tobacco control policy efforts and for reducing tobacco-related education disparities.

“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”

Last Updated: October, 2022

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

<i>Quantitative Economics Award</i> , Georgia State University	2020
<i>Outstanding GRA Award</i> , Georgia State University	2020
<i>2CI University Doctoral Fellowship</i> , Georgia State University	2018-Present
<i>Chancellor's Scholarship</i> , University of California, Riverside	2015-2016
<i>Phi Beta Kappa Inductee</i> , Washington & Jefferson College	2015
<i>The Dr. Mariano Garcia '39 Award in Mathematics</i> , Washington & Jefferson College	2015
<i>Presidential Scholarship</i> , Washington & Jefferson College	2011-2015

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Professor Michael Pesko	Fall 2018-Spring 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 Introduction to Macroeconomics Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory	Winter 2017, Spring 2017 Fall 2016 Summer 2017
Washington & Jefferson College Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Tutor for Mathematics Grader, Introduction to Macroeconomics	Spring 2014, Fall 2014 Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015

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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