Mitchell VanVuren

March 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION

Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale	Phone:	(503) 206-9032
PO Box 208206	Email:	mitchell.vanvuren@yale.edu
New Haven CT 06520-8206	Website:	https://sites.google.com/view/mitchell-vanvuren/

CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Postdoctoral Associate, Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE), Yale University (since 2022)

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, University of California, San Diego, 6/2022

Committee: Valerie Ramey (Co-chair), David Lagakos (Co-chair), Karthik Muralidharan, Titan Alon, Juan Herreño

B.S., Mathematics and Economics, University of Oregon, 2016

REFERENCES

Valerie Ramey, University of California, San Diego, vramey@ucsd.edu, (858) 534-2388

David Lagakos, Boston University, lagakos@bu.edu, (617) 353-8903

Titan Alon, University of California, San Diego, talon@ucsd.edu, (858) 534-3995

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Macroeconomics, Growth and Development, Healthcare, Computation

PUBLICATIONS

"Macroeconomic Effects of COVID-19 Across the World Income Distribution" with Titan Alon, Minki Kim, and David Lagakos, IMF Economic Review, August 2022

WORKING PAPERS

"Aggregate Effects of Public Health Insurance Expansion: The Role of Delayed Medical Care", January 2022

A substantial body of evidence suggests that many U.S. adults delay medical care until after age 65, when they become eligible for Medicare. In this paper, I study the aggregate consequences of expanding public health insurance access for younger individuals, accounting for the subsequent reduction in delayed care. I focus on two main channels. First, expanding public health insurance can reduce delayed care, resulting in long-run cost savings, since early treatment tends to be less expensive than later treatment. Second, expanding public insurance can raise the total number of people over age 65, raising long-run costs, since earlier care tends to reduce mortality. Both channels raise welfare from an ex-ante perspective, but the second leads to larger increases in distortionary taxation. To study these channels, I construct a heterogeneous-agent overlapping generations general-equilibrium model featuring health investment, endogenous mortality, and public and private health insurance. I estimate the model to match quasi-experimental evidence on the extent of delayed medical care in older U.S. adults and on the effects of the 2014 ACA Medicaid expansion on mortality. Both channels are quantitatively important in determining the long-run costs of expansion; however, the cost savings of the first outweigh the cost increases of the second, reducing long-run costs and the need for distortionary taxes.

"How Should Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic Differ in the Developing World?" with Titan Alon, Minki Kim, and David Lagakos, June 2020

> The COVID-19 pandemic has already led to dramatic policy responses in most advanced economies, and in particular sustained lockdowns matched with sizable transfers to much of the workforce. This paper provides a preliminary quantitative analysis of how aggregate policy responses should differ in developing countries. To do so we build an incomplete-markets macroeconomic model with epidemiological dynamics that features several of the main economic and demographic distinctions between advanced and developing economies relevant for the pandemic. We focus in particular on differences in population structure, fiscal capacity, healthcare capacity, the prevalence of "hand-to-mouth" households, and the size of the informal sector. The model predicts that blanket lockdowns are generally less effective in developing countries at reducing the welfare costs of the pandemic, saving fewer lives per unit of lost GDP. Age-specific lockdown policies, on the other hand, may be even more potent in developing countries, saving more lives per unit of lost output than in advanced economies.

"The Aggregate Effects of "Free" Secondary Schooling in the Developing World" with Junichi Fujimoto and David Lagakos, March 2023

> This paper analyzes the aggregate and distributional effects of publicly funded merit-based ('free') secondary schooling in the developing world. Our analysis is based on an overlapping-generations model of human capital accumulation in which households face borrowing constraints that can lead to misallocation of talent in equilibrium. We estimate the model to match a randomized controlled trial that provided poor but talented children in Ghana with scholarships for secondary education. The model predicts that a nationwide free secondary schooling policy is largely redistributive in nature, with modest gains in GDP and average welfare. Policies that spend the same amount on improving education quality result in larger welfare gains for households of all income levels.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"Aggregate Effects of Subsidizing Job Search in the Developing World: Crowd In or Crowd Out?"

"Labor Market Frictions, Firm Growth, and TFP"

"An Envelope Condition Algorithm for Solving Non-Concave Value Functions with Occasionally Binding Constraints"

TEACHING

As Instructor:

> Data Analytics for the Social Sciences, 2018, 2019

As Teaching Assistant:

> Graduate Macroeconomics A, 2017
>
> Macroeconomics A, 2017
>
> Macroeconomics B, 2021
>
> Principles of Macroeconomics, 2020, 2021
>
> Principles of Microeconomics, 2017

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITES

Presentations

> 2023: ASSA Annual Meeting, University of Connecticut
>
> 2022: NBER SI, University of Minnesota 3E Reading Group, Midwest Macro, NEUDC

2021: Society for Economic Dynamics Annual Meeting, LAEF Welfare & Inequality in the 21st Century, The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Junior Scholar Conference

Referee Service

Review of Economic Dynamics, Journal of Development Economics, World Bank Economic Review, Journal of Macroeconomics

Consulting

Inter-American Development Bank (2020)

OTHER INFORMATION

Citizenship: United States