

Michael A. Navarrete
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Employment

Assistant Policy Adviser and Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, August 2025-Present
Postdoctoral Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, July 2024-June 2025
Alice Rivlin Dissertation Fellow, Brookings Institution, November 2022-August 2024

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, 2024
M.A. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, 2021
B.A. Economics and French, Williams College, 2016

Fields of Specialization

Labor Economics, Macroeconomics, Measurement

Job Market Papers

“Geospatial Heterogeneity in Inflation: A Market Concentration Story” (with Seula Kim)

We study how inflation varies across regions with different income levels and the role of retailer market structure. Using NielsenIQ Retail Scanner and Business Dynamics Statistics data, we document new stylized facts of spatial heterogeneity in food inflation and retailer market structure. From 2006 to 2020, poorer MSAs experienced annualized food inflation that was 0.46 percentage points higher than that of richer ones—amounting to a cumulative difference of 8.8 percentage points over the period. Poorer areas also had fewer goods, fewer retailers, and higher market concentration. Using a triple-difference estimator during the 2014–2015 bird flu outbreak, we identify a causal link between market concentration and inflation.

“COBOLing Together UI Benefits: How Delays in Fiscal Stabilizers Affect Aggregate Consumption”

The US experienced an unprecedented increase in unemployment insurance (UI) claims beginning in March 2020. State UI-benefit systems were inadequately prepared to process these claims. In states that used an antiquated programming language, COBOL, to process claims, potential claimants experienced a larger increase in administrative difficulties, resulting in longer delays in benefit disbursement. These antiquated systems led to a 2.8-percentage-point decline in total credit and debit card consumption relative to card consumption in states with more modern systems. Furthermore, these antiquated systems experienced at least a 2.1-percentage-point increase in the share of claims that were delayed by over 70 days.

Work in Progress

“Measuring Real Sales and Inflation: Official Statistics vs Economics Transactions Data” (with Gabriel Ehrlich, John Haltiwanger, David Johnson, Seula Kim, Jake Kramer, Edward Olivares, R. Benjamin Rodriguez, and Matthew Shapiro)
“Unemployment Benefits and Business Formation” (with Joonkyu Choi, Samuel Messer, and Veronika Penciakova)

Policy Reports

Blanco, L., & Navarrete, M. (2025). Redefining Digital Access: A Case Study in Unemployment Insurance. *American Economic Association Minority Report*, Issue 17.

Research and Relevant Work Experience

Special Sworn Status (SSS) Researcher, U.S. Census Bureau, 2024-Present
 Economist, Economic Measurement and Research Internship, U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024
 Research Assistant, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 2016-2018
 Research Assistant, Williams College, 2015-2016
 Research Fellow, American Economic Association, Summer 2015

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Introductory Macroeconomics, University of Maryland, Summer 2021, Winter 2022, Summer 2022, Winter 2023
 Teaching Assistant, Labor Markets, University of Maryland, Spring 2020 and Fall 2020
 Teaching Assistant, Introductory Macroeconomics, University of Maryland, Fall 2019
 Teaching Assistant, Differential Equations, Williams College, Spring 2016

Grants and Awards

Postdoctoral Fellowship, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2024-2025
 Doctoral Research Grant, Washington Center for Equitable Growth, 2023–2024 (Seula Kim, co-PI)
 AEA Mentoring Program Conference Travel Support, American Economic Association, 2023–2025
 BSOS Dean's Research Initiative Travel Grant, University of Maryland, 2023
 Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland, 2023
 Alice Rivlin Dissertation Fellowship, Brookings Institution, 2022-2024
 IAAE Travel Grant, Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics, 2022
 Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, University of Maryland, 2022
 International Conference Student Support Award (ICSSA), University of Maryland, 2022

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2026: AEA Annual Meeting (planned)
 2025: AEA Annual Meeting, Productivity Seminar (BU Questrom), Brookings Institution, SGE Annual Conference, Society for Economic Dynamics (SED), Korean Economic Review International Conference, Econometric Society World Congress
 2024: AEA Annual Meeting, Office of Tax Analysis (Treasury), Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (Treasury), U.S. Census Bureau, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, DEI in Economics, Finance, and Central Banking, Society of Government Economists (SGE) Annual Conference, DC Urban Day, Barcelona School of Economics Summer Forum (BSE SF), UCL Stone Centre PhD Conference, WEAI Annual Conference, Federal Reserve Board (FRB), USDA, Midwest Macro, Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC) Annual Conference, BLS, Upjohn Institute, SEA Annual Meeting, NBER Conference on Competition in the U.S. Agricultural Sector, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
 2023: Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Annual Conference, Brookings Institution, WEAI International Conference, FCSM Research and Policy Conference, SEA Annual Meeting, AEA Mentoring Pipeline Conference, U.S. Census Bureau, Williams College
 2022: International Conference on Public Economic Theory (PET), Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics (IAAE), RWI (Berlin Office), Brookings Institution, Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting
 2015: American Economic Association (AEA) Pipeline Conference

Professional Service

Referee for *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*
 External Reviewer for the Washington Center for Equitable Growth Early Career grant

Languages

English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), French (proficient), Italian (beginner)

Personal

United States Citizen; Born in Miami, FL

Computational Skills

Stata, Mata, R, Matlab, Linux

References

Prof. Judith Hellerstein	University of Maryland	hellerst@umd.edu	(301) 405-3545
Prof. John Haltiwanger	University of Maryland	halt@umd.edu	(301) 405-3504
Prof. Ethan Kaplan	University of Maryland	edkaplan@umd.edu	(301) 405-3501