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Employment

Postdoctoral Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, July 2024-Present
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

JOB MARKET PAPERS

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

This paper studies how spatial variation in inflation rates affects real income inequality and examines the role of retailer dynamics in driving these differences. Using the NielsenIQ Retail Scanner dataset and the Business Dynamic Statistics, we document several stylized facts about the spatial heterogeneity in inflation and retailer dynamics. We find that poorer MSAs experienced higher inflation than richer MSAs on average from 2006 to 2020. The differences are substantial: the annualized difference in inflation between the poorest MSAs and the richest MSAs is 0.46 percentage points (10 p.p. in total over the period). Poorer MSAs have fewer retailers and less variety of goods with a larger fraction of large retailers; these poorer MSAs have higher retailer market concentration relative to richer MSAs. To explore a potential causal link between inflation and market concentration, we use a triple-difference estimator, with a particular focus on the egg market during the 2014-2015 bird flu episode. Our analysis suggests that retailer market concentration contributes to the difference in inflation between poor and rich MSAs.

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

The United States experienced an unprecedented increase in unemployment insurance (UI) claims starting 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, which led to longer delays in benefit disbursement. Using daily debit and credit card consumption data from Affinity Solutions, I employ a two-way fixed-effects estimator to measure the causal impact of having an antiquated UI benefit system on aggregate consumption. Such 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. I estimate that the share of claims whose processing was delayed by over 70 days rose by at least 2.1 percentage points more in COBOL states relative to non-COBOL states. Based on a back-of-the-envelope calculation using 2019 data, my results suggest that the decline in consumption in COBOL states in 2020 after the pandemic-emergency declaration corresponds to a real-GDP decline of at least $105 billion (in 2019 dollars).

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)

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
2025: AEA Annual Meeting, Productivity Seminar (BU Questrom), Brookings Institution (planned), University of Maryland (planned)
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, DC Urban Day, Barcelona School of Economics Summer Forum (BSE SF), UCL Stone Centre PhD Conference, WEAI Annual Conference, NBER SI Inequality and Macroeconomics (participant), NBER SI Labor Studies (participant), 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