

# Murad Zeynalli

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EMPLOYMENT	<b>Miami University</b> , Department of Economics Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics	Oxford, OH 2025 - Present
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EDUCATION	<b>Louisiana State University</b> Ph.D. in Economics Dissertation Title: <i>“Essays in Labor and Immigration Economics”</i> Chair: Dr. Daniel Keniston Graduate Certificate in Econometrics M.S. in Economics <b>Baku Engineering University</b> B.A. in Economics ( <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> )	Baton Rouge, LA 2025       Baku, Azerbaijan 2019
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FIELDS OF INTEREST	Labor Economics, Economics of Immigration
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WORKING PAPERS	<b>“Human Capital, Ancestry, and Skill Composition” [Job Market Paper]</b> <b>Abstract:</b> The spatial correlation between worker skills and industry skill intensity is among the best documented features of US economic geography. Yet, the causal impact of human capital on the industrial skill composition of regions remains largely unknown, despite its fundamental role in shaping how local economies adjust to demographic changes. This paper studies how ancestry-induced shifts in historical human capital affect the contemporary industrial skill composition of US counties. Leveraging quasi-random origin-by-destination immigration patterns from 1860 to 2010, I isolate exogenous variation in skill-specific local working-age population at the county level for 1970-2010. I find that increases in medium- and high-skill worker shares raise employment and establishment shares in high-skill industries while reducing them in low-skill industries. The positive effects are concentrated in nontradable sectors, which expand in response to stronger local demand, whereas tradable sectors contract as the relative scarcity of low-skill labor reduces their local competitiveness. These findings align with a model in which firms producing differentiated goods employ labor of varying skill types with limited substitutability, implying that shifts in human capital composition induce partial but systematic reallocation of economic activity toward skill-intensive industries.
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**“Holy Work: How Religiosity Shapes Local Labor Market Outcomes”** (with Mary Peshoff)

**Abstract:** We utilize a novel identification strategy to quantify the impacts of religiosity on US local labor markets. Exploiting the quasi-random variation in historical immigration from 1850 to 2010 and origin-specific religiosity, we isolate exogenous variation in the religious composition of US commuting zones for 1940-2010. We find that, relative to the religiously Unaffiliated share, an exogenous increase in Protestant, Orthodox Christian, and “Other” religious shares decreases employment and marriage shares, whereas Jewish share increases employment and college education shares along with mean income

in commuting zones. The share of married women in the workforce falls with all religious shares except Jewish share. Our findings reveal substantial heterogeneity by gender. We demonstrate both the causal effect of religiosity and the heterogeneous impacts of different faiths.

**“Firm Creation under DACA”**

**Abstract:** Undocumented immigration remains a central issue within US immigration policy debates, yet little is known about how legalization programs affect firm dynamics and labor market composition. In this paper, I study the impact of a particular legalization reform, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), enacted in 2012, on establishment and employment outcomes. I exploit variation in pre-treatment exposure to the policy across sectors and commuting zones, using a triple-difference estimator. I find that DACA increases establishment entry by 2.4 percent in more exposed sectors and temporarily reduces exit rates, suggesting market expansion and entrepreneurship amongst formerly undocumented workers. The share of native workers rises by 2.1 percentage points, whereas that of ineligible undocumented workers declines by a similar magnitude, demonstrating labor substitution. Heterogeneity estimates across sectoral skill types reveal that these effects are concentrated in low- and medium-skill sectors. These results have important policy implications such that immigrant regularization can enhance firm dynamism and facilitate labor reallocation, without displacing native workers.

WORKS IN  
PROGRESS

**“The Effect of Managerial Risk Preferences on Capital Structure Decisions”**  
(with *Joshua Scott and Eddy Junarsin*) - *Analysis Ongoing*

**“Weather Shocks, Violence, and Skill-Based Emigration from Mexico”** - *Analysis Ongoing*

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

**Miami University**

ECO 202: Principles of Macroeconomics (4 sections) Fall 2025

**Louisiana State University**

Course Instructor Fall 2022 - Spring 2025

ECON 2010: Principles of Macroeconomics (2 sections per semester, in-person)

ECON 2010: Principles of Macroeconomics (1 section, online) Summer 2024

**Excellence in Teaching Award** Fall 2024

Tutorial Instructor Fall 2020 - Spring 2022

ECON 2030: Economic Principles (4 sections per semester)

Teaching Assistant Fall 2019 - Spring 2020

ECON 4710: Aggregate Economic Analysis

ECON 2035: Money, Banking, and Macroeconomic Activity

ECON 2011: Principles of Macroeconomics (Honors)

OTHER  
EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistant**

Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, LSU Summer 2023

Project: “The Effects of Hazards and Disaster Events on Migration to Inform Coastal Decision-Making and Restoration in Louisiana”

(Supported by the US Department of Treasury under the RESTORE Act)

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS	<b>Teaching Award</b>	
	Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of Economics, LSU	2024
	<b>Other Awards</b>	
	Professional Development Fund, Miami University	2025
	Graduate Assistantship, LSU	2019 - 2025
	T.J. Moran Superior Graduate Student Support Fund, LSU (x2)	2024
	Graduate Student Association Travel Award, LSU (x3)	2024
	Travel Award, Department of Economics, LSU	2023 & 2024
	European Economic Association Travel Grant, <i>Netherlands</i>	2024
	<b>Scholarships</b>	
CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS	Summer School Scholarship, <i>Mexico</i>	2024
	DAAD Master ERP Scholarship, <i>Germany</i>	2019-2021
	Full Undergraduate Scholarship, <i>Azerbaijan</i>	2014-2019
	2026: Brown Bag, University of Cincinnati, ( <i>scheduled</i> ), <i>Cincinnati, OH</i>	
	2025: APPAM Fall Research Conference (47th, <i>scheduled</i> ), <i>Seattle, WA</i>	
	Brown Bag, Miami Department of Economics, <i>Oxford, OH</i>	
	SOLE-EALE-AASLE World Labor Conference (6th), <i>Toronto, Canada</i>	
	2024: SEA Annual Meeting (94th), <i>Washington, DC</i>	
	Summer School (3rd), “Economics of Migration,” <i>Mexico City, Mexico</i>	
	EEA-ESEM (39th-76th), Erasmus University, <i>Rotterdam, Netherlands</i>	
DEPARTMENT SERVICE	Brown Bag, LSU Department of Economics, <i>Baton Rouge, LA</i>	
	2023: SEA Annual Meeting (93rd), <i>New Orleans, LA</i>	
	Brown Bag, LSU Department of Economics, <i>Baton Rouge, LA</i>	
	2022: Brown Bag, LSU Department of Economics, <i>Baton Rouge, LA</i>	
	2021: Brown Bag, LSU Department of Economics, <i>Baton Rouge, LA</i>	
	Department Representative at the “Destination LSU: Academic Reception”, LSU	
	2022; 2024; 2025	
	Reviewer	Feb, 2024
	Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, <i>New Orleans</i>	
MEMBERSHIPS	American Economic Association, Society of Labor Economists, European Economic Association, Southern Economic Association, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, Association for Public Policy and Management	
SKILLS	<b>Computer:</b> Stata, R, Python, EViews, $\text{\LaTeX}$	
	<b>Languages:</b> Azerbaijani (Native), English (Fluent), Turkish (Fluent), German (Basic)	

## REFERENCES

### **Daniel Keniston**

Associate Professor of Economics  
Department of Economics  
Louisiana State University  
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### **Scott Abrahams**

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### **Areendam Chanda**

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