

Murad Zeynalli

Department of Economics
Miami University
3021 Farmer School of Business
Oxford, OH 45056

Work Email: zeynalm@miamioh.edu
Personal Email: muradzeynalli5@gmail.com
Phone: +1 (225) 371-1532
Personal Website: mzeynalli1.github.io

EMPLOYMENT	Miami University , Department of Economics Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics	Oxford, OH 2025 - Present
------------	--	------------------------------

EDUCATION	Louisiana State University 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 Baku Engineering University B.A. in Economics (<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>)	Baton Rouge, LA 2025 Baku, Azerbaijan 2019
-----------	--	---

FIELDS OF INTEREST	Labor Economics, Economics of Immigration
--------------------	---

WORKING PAPERS	“Human Capital, Ancestry, and Skill Composition” [Job Market Paper] Abstract: A central regularity of US economic geography is the spatial correlation between local human capital and the skill intensity of local industries, yet the causal effect of human capital on the skill composition of industries remains unclear. I examine how ancestry-induced shifts in historical human capital shape the contemporary industrial skill distribution of US counties. Exploiting quasi-random variation in ancestry composition for 1970–2010 based on origin-by-destination immigration stocks from 1860–2010, I generate plausibly exogenous variation in the skill structure of local working-age populations. The findings show that exogenous increases in medium- and high-skill worker shares raise the employment and establishment shares of high-skill industries and reduce those of low-skill industries. Adjustment is asymmetric across sectors: nontradables expand, consistent with stronger local demand, whereas tradables contract as relative scarcity of low-skill labor increases local costs. A model with imperfect substitution across skill types rationalizes these patterns and implies partial yet systematic reallocation toward skill-intensive economic activity following shifts in the labor force composition. The results identify a key mechanism through which long-run, demography-driven human capital shocks reshape regional production structure, informing local economic development and education policies.
----------------	--

“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	Teaching Award	
	Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of Economics, LSU	2024
	Other Awards	
	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
	Scholarships	
	Summer School Scholarship, <i>Mexico</i>	2024
	DAAD Master ERP Scholarship, <i>Germany</i>	2019-2021
	Full Undergraduate Scholarship, <i>Azerbaijan</i>	2014-2019
CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS	2026: Brown Bag, University of Cincinnati, (<i>scheduled</i>), <i>Cincinnati, OH</i>	
	2025: APPAM Fall Research Conference (47th), <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>	
	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 SERVICE	Department Representative at the “Destination LSU: Academic Reception”, LSU	
	2022; 2024; 2025	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	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	Computer: Stata, R, Python, EViews, \LaTeX	
	Languages: Azerbaijani (Native), English (Fluent), Turkish (Fluent), German (Basic)	

REFERENCES

Daniel Keniston

Associate Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
Louisiana State University
Phone: (225) 578-3807
Email: dkeniston@lsu.edu

Scott Abrahams

Assistant Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
Louisiana State University
Phone: (225) 578-5211
Email: sabrahams@lsu.edu

Areendam Chanda

Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
Louisiana State University
Phone: (225) 578-5211
Email: achanda@lsu.edu

Last Updated: November 15, 2025