

# Murad Zeynalli

Department of Economics  
E.J. Ourso College of Business  
Louisiana State University  
2410 Business Education Complex  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

*Last Updated: May 28, 2025*

Email: [mzeyna1@lsu.edu](mailto:mzeyna1@lsu.edu)  
Phone: +1 (225) 371-1532  
Personal Website: [\[Link\]](#)

---

EDUCATION	<b>Louisiana State University</b> Ph.D. in Economics Graduate Certificate in Econometrics M.S. in Economics <b>Baku Engineering University</b> B.A. in Economics ( <i>with Distinction</i> )	Baton Rouge, LA, US 2021-2025 (August) 2022 2019-2021 Baku, Azerbaijan 2014-2019
-----------	---	---

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<b>Course Instructor</b> , Department of Economics, LSU ECON 2010: Principles of Macroeconomics (2 sections per semester, in-person) ECON 2010: Principles of Macroeconomics (1 section, online) <b>Excellence in Teaching Award</b> , Fall 2024  <b>Tutorial Instructor</b> , Department of Economics, LSU ECON 2030: Economic Principles (4 sections per semester, hybrid)  <b>Teaching Assistant</b> , Department of Economics, LSU ECON 4710: Aggregate Economic Analysis ECON 2035: Money, Banking, and Macroeconomic Activity ECON 2011: Principles of Macroeconomics (Honors)	Fall 2022 - Present     Fall 2020 - Spring 2022   Fall 2019 - Spring 2020
---------------------	---	---

WORKING PAPERS	<b>“Human Capital, Immigration, and Skill Composition” [Job Market Paper]</b>  <b>Abstract:</b> The spatial correlation between worker skills and industry skill-intensity is amongst the best documented features of US economic geography. However, the causal impact of human capital on the industrial skill composition of US regions remains largely unknown. This paper studies how immigration-induced shifts in historical human capital affect the contemporary industrial skill composition of US counties. Leveraging quasi-random origin-by-destination immigration patterns from 1850 to 2010, I isolate exogenous variation in skill-specific local working-age population at the county level for 1970-2010. I find that an increase in medium- and high-skill worker shares raises employment and establishment shares in high-skill industries and reduces them in low-skill industries. The nontradable sector captures the major portion of the positive impacts, while the tradable sector absorbs the main fraction of the negative effects. The empirical findings are consistent with a CES model, in which representative firms with differentiated products employ labor of a certain skill type more intensively.
----------------	--

**“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.

WORKS IN  
PROGRESS

**“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.

**“Prayers and Practices: The Impact of Religiosity on Mortality and Sexual Health Outcomes”** (with *Mary Peshoff*)

OTHER  
EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistant for Dr. Thomas Douthat,**  
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**  
Graduate Assistantship, LSU 2019 - Present  
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

**Scholarships**DAAD Master ERP Scholarship, *Germany (declined)*

2019-2021

Full Undergraduate Scholarship, *Azerbaijan*

2014-2019

**CONFERENCES  
AND SEMINARS**94th Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association (presenter and discussant),  
Washington, DC Nov, 20243rd Mexican Summer School on the “Economics of Migration” (participant and presen-  
ter), Mexico City, Mexico Sep, 202439th Meeting of the European Economic Association and  
76th European Meeting of the Econometric Society (presenter), Erasmus University, Rot-  
terdam, Netherlands Aug, 202493rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association (presenter), New Orleans,  
LA Nov, 2023Brown Bag Research Seminar, LSU Department of Economics (presenter), Baton Rouge,  
LA Dec, 2021; Nov, 2022; May, 2023; Apr, 2024; Oct, 2024**DEPARTMENT  
SERVICE**Department Representative at the “Destination LSU: Academic Reception” Mar, 2022;  
Aug, 2024; Apr, 2025  
E.J. Ourso College of Business, LSU**PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE**Reviewer Feb, 2024  
Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans**MEMBERSHIPS**American Economic Association, Society of Labor Economists, European Economic Asso-  
ciation, Southern Economic Association, Agricultural & Applied Economics Association**COMPUTER  
SKILLS**Stata, R, Python, EViews, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X**LANGUAGES**

Azerbaijani (Native), English (Fluent), Turkish (Fluent), German (Basic)

**REFERENCES****[Daniel Keniston \(Chair\)](#)**Associate Professor of Economics  
Department of Economics  
Louisiana State University  
Phone: (225) 578-3807  
Email: [dkeniston@lsu.edu](mailto:dkeniston@lsu.edu)**[Areendam Chanda](#)**Professor of Economics  
Department of Economics  
Louisiana State University  
Phone: (225) 578-5211  
Email: [achanda@lsu.edu](mailto:achanda@lsu.edu)**[Scott Abrahams](#)**Assistant Professor of Economics  
Department of Economics  
Louisiana State University  
Phone: (225) 578-5211  
Email: [sabrahams@lsu.edu](mailto:sabrahams@lsu.edu)