

# Murad Zeynalli

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*Last Updated: November 18, 2024*

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

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

WORKING PAPERS      **[“Human Capital, Immigration, and Skill Composition”](#)** [Job Market Paper]

**Abstract:** The spatial correlation between worker skills and industry skill-intensity has been documented. However, the causal impact of human capital on the industrial skill composition of US regions through historical persistence remains largely unknown. This paper studies how immigration-induced exogenous shifts in local human capital affect the industrial skill composition of employment and establishment shares in 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 population 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:** Identifying causal effects of religiosity is difficult, since religious identity is non-random. While prior studies have addressed this issue in both experimental and quasi-experimental settings, challenges remain. In this study, we utilize a novel identification strategy to quantify the impacts of religiosity on US local labor markets. Exploiting the interaction of the quasi-random variation in historical immigration and origin-specific religiosity measures, we isolate destination-specific exogenous religiosity shocks at the commuting zone level for 1970-2010. Our results show that an exogenous increase in Catholic share raises unemployment and income but reduces college education and fertility, while an exogenous rise in Protestant share increases some college education, marriage, and fertility but lowers income. Conversely, an exogenous increase in Jewish share raises income, college education, and divorce rates, whereas it reduces marriage. Furthermore, our findings reveal substantial heterogeneity by gender and age. We provide suggestive evidence that these results are partially driven by the ancestral compositions

of US commuting zones.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

### “Firm Creation under DACA”

**Abstract:** The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, enacted in August 2012, provided temporary relief from deportation and granted work authorization to young undocumented immigrants. The existing literature has focused on the human capital and labor market effects of DACA, but the empirical evidence on its impacts on firms in industries employing low-skilled workers is limited. Leveraging DACA as a natural experiment and utilizing a triple difference estimator, I analyze how it affects firms. The treated group consists of DACA-eligible young undocumented workers in industries with a history of employing them, while the control group includes DACA-ineligible workers with similar profiles in the same industries. Additionally, I restrict the sample to young Mexican workers and construct an instrument for them using the administrative Matrícula Consular de Alta Seguridad (MCAS) dataset. The study furthers our understanding of the immigration policy effectiveness by providing new insights into its impacts on firms.

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

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Course Instructor**, Department of Economics, LSU Fall 2022 - Present  
ECON 2010: Principles of Macroeconomics (2 sections)

**Tutorial Instructor**, Department of Economics, LSU Fall 2020 - Spring 2022  
ECON 2030: Economic Principles (4 sections)

**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Economics, LSU 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 for Dr. Thomas Douthat**, Summer 2023  
Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, LSU  
Project - “RESTORE: Natural Disaster-Driven Migration in Louisiana”

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

**Teaching Award** 2024  
Excellence in Teaching Award, LSU

### Other Awards

Graduate Assistantship, LSU 2019 - Present  
T.J. Moran Superior Graduate Student Support Fund, LSU 2024  
Graduate Student Association Travel Award, LSU (x3) 2024  
Travel Award, Department of Economics, LSU 2023 & 2024  
European Economic Association Travel Grant, *Netherlands* 2024

### Scholarships

DAAD Master ERP Scholarship, *Germany (declined)* 2019-2021

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS	94th Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association ( <i>scheduled</i> , presenter and discussant), Washington, DC Nov, 2024 3rd Mexican Summer School on the “Economics of Migration” (participant and presenter), Mexico City, Mexico Sep, 2024 39th Meeting of the European Economic Association and 76th European Meeting of the Econometric Society (presenter), Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands Aug, 2024 93rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association (presenter), New Orleans, LA Nov, 2023 Brown Bag Research Seminar, LSU Department of Economics (presenter), Baton Rouge, LA Dec, 2021; Nov, 2022; May, 2023; Apr, 2024; Oct, 2024	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	Reviewer Feb, 2024 Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans	
MEMBERSHIPS	American Economic Association, Society of Labor Economists, European Economic Association, 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	<b>Professor Daniel Keniston (Chair)</b> Department of Economics Louisiana State University Phone: (225) 578-3807 Email: <a href="mailto:dkeniston@lsu.edu">dkeniston@lsu.edu</a>	<b>Professor Areendam Chanda</b> Department of Economics Louisiana State University Phone: (225) 578-5211 Email: <a href="mailto:achanda@lsu.edu">achanda@lsu.edu</a>
	<b>Professor Scott Abrahams</b> Department of Economics Louisiana State University Phone: (225) 578-5211 Email: <a href="mailto:sabrahams@lsu.edu">sabrahams@lsu.edu</a>	