

Neil Duzett

PhD Candidate

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Education

PhD in Economics, Texas A&M University Committee: Andrew Barr (Chair), Jonathan Meer, Steven Puller, Joanna Lahey	Expected Spring 2026
Pre-Doc at BYU Record Linking Lab	Spring 2020 – Spring 2021
BA in Economics and Mathematics, Brigham Young University	Spring 2020

Fields of research

Applied microeconomics – Public, Labor, Political economy

Papers under review

“Intergenerational Transmission of Lifespan in the U.S.” with Sandra Black, Adriana Lleras-Muney, Nolan Pope, and Joseph Price
(Revise and resubmit at *American Economic Review*)

“Detecting Fake People in Historical Records” with Tammy Hepps and Joseph Price
(Conditionally accepted at *Social Science History*)

“The Composition of Power: Gender Penalties in Close Elections”
(Under review at *Journal of Public Economics*)

Job market paper

“Diversity’s Impact on Group Communication and Effectiveness: Evidence from U.S. City Councils”

Abstract: The debate surrounding diversity in organizations has intensified in recent years, spurred by claims that it enhances group decision-making and performance. Yet despite significant attention and investment, evidence on diversity’s effects, its channels, and how these depend on group characteristics remains limited. This paper provides new

evidence on diversity in the U.S. city council setting. Leveraging quasi-random victories in close elections between different-race candidates, I use a regression discontinuity design to estimate the impact of racial diversity on city council communication and effectiveness. Applying natural language topic modeling and sentiment analysis techniques to 17,000 city council meeting transcripts, I show that diversity shifts council discussion topics, and also heightens communication frictions – increasing negativity in council meetings by 66%. Consistent with predictions from existing theories and experiments on diversity in groups of varying sizes, diversity's effect on communication frictions is particularly strong in smaller councils. These competing communication effects and heterogeneity by council size are reflected in diversity's effects on incumbent vote shares, a measure of council effectiveness. Diversity improves future vote shares by 6.7 points in large councils, with little to no effect for smaller councils. Together, these results suggest that diversity's impact on communication plays a key role in determining the effectiveness of diverse groups.

Works in progress

“The Effects of Risky Financial Behavior as an Undergraduate: Sports Betting and Academic Performance” with Maxwell Bullard

“The Impact of Individual Debt Forgiveness: Evidence from the Texas Driver Responsibility Program”

Teaching experience

Instructor of record

Texas A&M University
Contemporary Economic Issues (ECON 465) Spring 2025
Hullabaloo U (ECON 285) Fall 2023

Teaching assistant

Texas A&M University
Public Economics I (ECON 603) Fall 2025
Data Science for Economic and Social Issues (ECON 470) Fall 2025
Economics of Education (ECON 328) Fall 2024
Intro to Econometrics (ECMT 463) Fall 2023 – Spring 2024
Principles of Economics (ECON 202) Summer 2023
Economic Data Analysis (ECMT 461) Fall 2022 – Spring 2023
Economics of Crime (ECON 421) Spring 2022

Brigham Young University
Intermediate Price Theory II (ECON 382) Spring 2018 – Fall 2018

Economic Principles and Problems (ECON 110)

Spring 2017 – Spring 2018

Research assistance

Research Assistant, Prof. Joseph Price

2018-2020

Brigham Young University

Presentations

Southern Economics Association Conference

Fall 2025

Texas Applied Microeconomics Student Workshop

Spring 2025

Texas Applied Microeconomics Student Workshop

Spring 2024

Mountain West Economic History Conference

Spring 2023