

NIR EILAM

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, University of Texas at Austin, May 2021 (Expected)
M.A., Economics, Tel-Aviv University, 2015
B.A., Economics (Summa Cum Laude), Tel-Aviv University, 2010
B.A., Management (Magna Cum Laude), Tel-Aviv University, 2010

REFERENCES

Manuela Angelucci
Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin

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Scott Cunningham
Department of Economics
Baylor University
254-537-2239
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Mike Geruso
Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin

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TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS

Fields: Labor Economics, Health Economics
Sub-Fields: Environmental Economics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

2011 – 2013	Researcher, Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel
2009 – 2010	Research Assistant for Dr. Dan Weiss, Tel-Aviv University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Austin

Fall 16, 17, 18	Microeconomics 1 (<i>PhD</i>), for Prof. Vasiliki Skreta and Prof. Svetlana Boyarchenko; 4.7/5 4.8/5 4.6/5
Spring 20	Causal Inference (<i>MA</i>), for Prof. Scott Cunningham
Summer 19	Microtheory for Business (<i>MA</i>), for Prof. John Thompson; 4.7/5
Spring 19	Public Economics, for Prof. Helen Schneider
Summer 18	Comparative Economic Systems, for Prof. Brian Trinqu
Spring 18	Urban Economics, for Prof. Devrim Ikizler
Summer 16, 17	Health Economics, for Prof. Helen Schneider
Spring 16	Microeconomic Theory, for Prof. Wayne Hickenbottom; 5/5 4.4/5 4.7/5
Fall 15	Intro to Microeconomics, for Prof. Tom Weisman

* Numeric teaching evaluation scores detailed if weekly review sessions were held; comments are available on the website

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Presentations at Conferences and Invited Seminars

- November, 2020 *† Triangle Health Economics Workshop at UNC: *“PrEP and Moral Hazard”*
 *† Southern Economic Association (SEA): *“Extreme Weather and Migration in The United States”*
 *† National Tax Association (NTA): *“Extreme Weather and Migration in The United States”* and *“PrEP and Moral Hazard”*
 *† The American Economic Association Committee on the Status of LGBTQ+ Individuals in the Economics Profession (CSQIEP) Virtual Seminar Series: *“PrEP and Moral Hazard”*
- June, 2020 Ψ American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon): *“PrEP and Moral Hazard”*
- April, 2020 Ψ Population Association of America (PAA): *“PrEP and Moral Hazard”*
- December, 2019 Texas Health Economics Conference at Baylor: *“PrEP and Moral Hazard”*
- November, 2019 Southern Economic Association (SEA): *“PrEP and Moral Hazard”*
- * Scheduled, † Virtual, Ψ Paper accepted; session cancelled

WORKING PAPERS

“Prep and Moral Hazard” (*Job Market Paper*) with Scott Delhomme

PrEP is a drug introduced in 2012 that reduces the risk of contracting HIV if exposed to the virus. Since its introduction, the drug has become popular amongst gay men, who are responsible for the majority of new HIV infections. Given the reduced risk of contracting HIV, men on PrEP might be more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior, specifically multiple sexual partners and non-protected sex; these might lead to increases in other STIs. In this paper, we examine this empirically, by applying several difference-in-difference analyses, comparing the evolution of STIs in states with different PrEP adoption rates and between men and women. In addition, we exploit cross-state variation in the gay male population before PrEP was introduced as a treatment intensity measure. We show that STI rates were parallel in high and low PrEP states before the introduction of PrEP, but began to diverge afterwards. We estimate that one additional male PrEP user increases male Chlamydia incidences by 0.73 and male Gonorrhea incidences by 0.83, a sizable effect. We also conduct back of the envelope calculations to estimate the costs associated with the additional STIs due to the introduction of PrEP and create a counterfactual distribution of STIs, estimating that male STI rates would have been 7% lower in the absence of PrEP. This informs an open question regarding the increases in STDs in recent years, as well as the unintended consequences of the rollout of a major drug.

“Extreme Weather and Migration in the United States”

Extreme weather has become more frequent and intense over the past few decades. Its effect on various outcomes has been studied extensively in recent years, whereas its effect on migration in developed countries has been understudied. Given that the United States population has been historically highly mobile, direct and indirect effects of extreme weather could catalyze people to migrate. I test this empirically, following the approach of Deschenes and Greenstone (2011), by relating decade-to-decade variation in temperature, precipitation and natural disasters to net migration at the county level in the United States over 6 decades (1950-2010). I find that the relationship between temperature and net-migration exhibits an inverted U-shape, where decades in which the temperature was further away from the 50-60 temperature bin are associated with decreased net-migration; the effect is strongest at the extreme temperature bins. Specifically, one additional day in a year (averaged over a decade) with temperature above 90 decreases net migration by approximately 1.5 migrants per 100 population. Incidences of natural disasters and increased precipitation are also associated with decreased net-migration. I find that the effect is strongest for younger people, and I find no effect for old people. I also find that the magnitude of the relationship is not stronger for agriculture-dependent counties; urban counties seem to exhibit a slightly stronger relationship than rural counties. This result could be important as migration could be mitigating the detrimental effects of climate change. In addition, it suggests that future increase in extreme weather could entail a migration response that will have various implications on different markets, which should be taken into account when

considering the general equilibrium effects of climate change.

“The Fiscal Impact of Unrestrictive Immigration: Evidence from Israel”

Israel had admitted more than a million immigrants following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990 to become a country with one the highest shares of foreign-born population (26%). Their impact on the labor market has garnered most attention, while their fiscal impact has been largely ignored. Using rich household income and expenditure data I estimate the tax contribution of each household, the benefits it receives and consequently its net fiscal impact. Overall, 100% of government revenues and expenditures are attributed to households, which obviates the need for assumptions pertaining to the differences between natives and immigrants, which are common in the literature. Furthermore, Israel's unique immigration policy, which allows individuals of Jewish origins unrestricted immigration, provides a case study for the potential fiscal impact of an open border policy. I estimate that the net fiscal impact of immigrants is markedly negative. Immigrants received ₪25,063 million (~\$7 Billion) more in benefits than they contributed in taxes and fees; this amounts to approximately 2.9% of GDP, considerably higher than the figures reported in the literature. While immigrants fare considerably worse than natives, their descendants, i.e. the second generation, fare much better than natives. The net fiscal impact was driven by significant variation in contributions between the population groups, while the distribution of benefits was much more equal. I also find that immigrants' returns to education are lower, which accentuates the differences between the net fiscal impact of immigrants and natives as the education level increases.

“The Effect of Child Allowances on Labor Outcomes”

Most developed countries provide some sort of benefits to families with children; in Europe specifically, benefits in the form of child allowances are prevalent. In Israel, child allowances are generous in both eligibility and value and are one of the largest social welfare programs. Although prevalent in developed countries, research on the effect of universal child allowances on labor outcomes has been scarce. I am to fill this gap by examining the effect on labor outcomes of a policy that drastically reduced child allowances in Israel during the years 2002-2005 in varying degrees of intensity, depending on parity. Employing several difference-in-differences analyses, I find that the policy increased the labor force participation of young women by 6.6% from baseline, whereas I do not find an effect on working hours. I also find that younger and more educated women were more responsive. Estimating the effect of the change in child allowances on labor outcomes might inform policy makers in designing cash transfer programs in general and child benefits programs in particular.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"Life-Saving Medical Innovation and the Black-White Mortality Gap: Evidence from the introduction of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART)" with Sam Aarenberg

There are large and persistent differences in health and survival across races in the US. Although the black - white mortality gap has been slowly decreasing, health disparities by race remain large. In this paper we present evidence that differential access to medical innovation could be an important factor in the persistence of the mortality gap. In 1996, HAART was introduced and led to immediate and dramatic improvements in the health of HIV positive individuals who took the drug. We document that the need for HAART was less likely to be met in counties with a higher share of the population that is black. Consequently, the HIV black-white mortality gap increased by 200 percentage points soon after the introduction of HAART. Over the same period, the non-HIV black-white mortality gap was actually decreasing. Exploiting the variation in the share of the population that is gay across counties, we show that counties with a higher share of gay men, experienced higher increases in the HIV black-white mortality gap. These findings highlight the importance of guaranteeing access to life-saving medical innovation to minority populations.

"HAART and STDs" with Scott Cunningham and Rebecca Thornton

OTHER

Programming Skills: Stata, Latex, R (basic)
Languages: English (fluent), Hebrew (native)
Citizenship: Israel