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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

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Scott Cunningham
Department of Economics
Baylor University
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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

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**Presentations at Conferences and Invited Seminars** * Scheduled, † Virtual, ‡ Paper accepted; session cancelled
2020*† Winter Meetings of the Econometric Society: “*PrEP and Moral Hazard*”† 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*”‡ American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon): “*PrEP and Moral Hazard*”‡ Population Association of America (PAA): “*PrEP and Moral Hazard*”**2019**Texas Health Economics Conference at Baylor: “*PrEP and Moral Hazard*”Southern Economic Association (SEA): “*PrEP and Moral Hazard*”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 behaviors, specifically unprotected sex; these might lead to increases in other STIs. In this paper, we examine this empirically. In our main specification, we proxy for PrEP use in a given state using the predetermined share of the population that is gay in that state, a measure that is highly predictive of PrEP use. We then exploit this pre-treatment cross-state variation in the gay population shares to estimate difference-in-difference and triple-difference event studies. We estimate that one additional male PrEP user increases male Chlamydia incidences by 0.66, male Gonorrhea incidences by 0.51 and male Syphilis incidences by 0.04, a sizable effect. Counterfactual distributions suggest that male STI rates would have been 17.9% - 25.6% lower in the absence of PrEP. This paper adds to the literature on moral hazard by examining the behavioral response to a medical innovation that is cheap, accessible, and confers substantial reduction in risk that is highly salient to users. In addition, it informs an open question regarding the increases in STIs in recent years, and discusses policies to mitigate PrEP’s unintended consequences.

“Extreme Weather and Migration in the United States”

Extreme weather has become more frequent and intense over the past few decades. 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 by exploiting spatial and temporal variation in extreme weather (temperature, precipitation and natural disasters) at the county level over 6 decades (1950-2010). A non-parametric estimation yields a U-shape relationship between temperature and net-migration, where decades in which the temperature was further away from the 50-60 temperature bin exhibit lower 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 is important as migration could mitigate the detrimental effects of climate change. In addition, it suggests that future increase in extreme weather could entail

a migration response that will affect 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, becoming a country with one the highest shares of foreign-born population (26%). Immigrants’ impact on the labor market has garnered most attention, while their fiscal impact has been largely ignored. Using detailed 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 a semi-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, the second generation fares 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”

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 aim 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; I find no effect on working hours. I also find that younger and more educated women were more responsive. This paper informs 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 Arenberg

There are large and persistent differences in health and survival across races in the US. 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 We document that HIV-positive black men had lower take-up than HIV-positive white men. 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 larger increases in the HIV black-white mortality gap. The parallels between the current pandemic and the HIV epidemic are important to consider in determining the distribution of a future vaccine.

"HAART and STDs" with Scott Cunningham and Rebecca Thornton

OTHER

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