UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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BUSINESS ADDRESS:
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DESIRED RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS:

PRIMARY
- Public Economics
- Labor Economics
- Applied Microeconomics

SECONDARY
- Behavioral Economics
- Economics of Education

FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION:
Public economics, Labor economics

DISSERTATION TITLE: "Essays in Public and Labor Economics"

Expected Date of Completion:	May 2024
Principal Advisor:	Professor Patrick Kline
Other References:	Professors Jesse Rothstein, Dmitry Taubinsky, and Emmanuel Saez

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:	**DEGREE**	**DATE**	**FIELD**
Pomona College	B.A.	2014	Economics

WORKING PAPERS:

- Misperception and Income Response to Means-Tested Programs: Evidence from the College Financial Aid Implicit Tax (**Job Market Paper**)

- Achieving Race-based Equity through Race-blind Policies: Evidence from a Local Preference in College Admissions
  with Johnny Huynh (UCLA)

WORKS IN PROGRESS:

- Family Responses to the College Financial Aid Implicit Income Tax
  with Joseph Gray-Hancuch (OTA, US Treasury) and Paul Organ (OTA, US Treasury)
  (approved US Treasury project; slides available)

- The Long-run Effects of Growing Up in a High-crime Neighborhood
  with Jonathan Rothbaum (US Census) and Matthew Unrath (US Census)
  (approved US Census Bureau project)

- Local Economic Shocks and Human Capital Accumulation
  with Julien Lafortune (PPIC)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

RESEARCH:

2019	Graduate Student Researcher (GSR): Prof. Jesse Rothstein, UC Berkeley
2016-2018	Pre-doctoral Research Fellow: Profs. Joshua Angrist, David Autor, Sally Hudson, Amanda Pallais, and Parag Pathak, MIT and Harvard
2014-2016	Senior Research Assistant: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
2013-2014	Research Assistant: Prof. Hal Nelson, Claremont Graduate University

TEACHING:

Graduate Student Instructor (GSI), Department of Economics, UC Berkeley
Economic Statistics and Econometrics (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

PRESENTATIONS:

2023	OTA, US Treasury (by coauthor Paul Organ, OTA). UC Berkeley (Public finance seminar x2; Public and labor economics mini symposium).
2022	UC Berkeley (Labor lunch seminar; Public finance seminar)
2021	UC Berkeley (Labor lunch seminar)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:

2023	LEAP Center Graduate Student Fellowship
2023	CPL Seed Grant (supports UC Consumer Credit Panel access)
2023	CPL Graduate Fellowship Grant
2022	IRLE Dissertation Fellowship
2022	Burch Center Fellowship
2022	David P. Gardner Seminar Fellowship
2022	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Award, UC Berkeley
2021	Opportunity Lab Place-Based Policy Initiative Grant
2018	National Science Foundation GRFP, Honorable Mention
2014	Leland M. Backstrand Memorial Award in Economics, Pomona College
2010	Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America Troop 399

AFFILIATIONS:

Special Sworn Status, US Census Bureau

VOLUNTEER SERVICE:

2020-2022	Graduate Student Mentor, Berkeley Economists for Equity (BEE)
2017-2018	Non-Testifying Expert Consultant: American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

OTHER INFORMATION:

Citizenship: United States

SELECT PAPER ABSTRACTS:

- Misperception and Income Response to Means-Tested Programs: Evidence from the College Financial Aid Implicit Tax (**Job Market Paper**)

  Means testing of college financial aid creates large implicit tax rates that affect millions of middle income families each year. These implicit tax rates can exceed 30pp, with middle income families earning between $40k and $140k facing the highest rates. I present the first estimates of the elasticity of parent income with respect to these taxes. I use Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) records covering the universe of aid applicants in California from 2010-2021 and a series of difference-in-differences designs that exploit year-over-year changes in a family's effective tax rate. I estimate an elasticity of taxable income (ETI) for middle income families of 0.10. Responses are larger among families with a high share of flexible non-labor income (ETI=0.47), high assets (ETI=0.36), or higher income ($140k to $240k; ETI=0.28). The ETI is a sufficient statistic for the efficiency cost of a tax under the null that all individuals correctly understand the tax. However, I show based on an online survey that I conducted that many families misperceive the financial aid tax schedule. I show theoretically that when individuals misperceive a tax, the efficiency cost of the tax is affected by two channels: a bias channel measuring the average degree of misperception; and a variance channel measuring heterogeneity in misperception. The survey indicates that parents are not biased on average, but that their perceived tax rates are highly variable. Accounting for misperception, I estimate that means testing in college aid produces an efficiency cost equal to 2.3% of total aid among middle income families. Because of the substantial heterogeneity in perceived tax rates, I estimate that misperception increases the efficiency cost of means testing college aid by $18.8 million per year among middle income families in California alone.

- Achieving Race-based Equity through Race-blind Policies: Evidence from a Local Preference in College Admissions with Johnny Huynh (UCLA)

  We study the enrollment and equity effects of a unique college admissions policy: a preference in admissions for students applying from local high schools. In the mid-2000s, 18 California State University (CSU) campuses were mandated to prioritize applicants from local high schools; however, only nine campuses offered a meaningful local preference in practice, which we call "adherent" campuses. We estimate the effects of exposure to a local admissions preference using a difference-in-differences design that interacts an indicator for being local to an adherent as opposed to a non-adherent campus with an indicator for being pre or post policy implementation. Our results show that the policy induced students to enroll at their local campuses, without evidence of crowd-out from other public four-year colleges in California. Effects are only found for students from high schools with a high share of underrepresented minority (URM) students. As a result, the formally race-blind local preference policy nearly eliminates the pre-existing gap in enrollment at California public four-year colleges between students from high and low URM share high schools.