

# Neil M. Bennett

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**FIELDS** Applied Microeconomics, Public Economics, Labor Economics, Migration

**EDUCATION** *Doctor of Philosophy, Economics*  
University of California, Irvine, Expected 2020  
Concentration: Public and Labor Economics

*Masters of Arts, Economics*  
University of Montana, Missoula, 2015  
Concentration: Development and Environmental Economics

*Bachelor of Arts, Mathematics*  
University of Montana, Missoula, 2013

**WORKING PAPERS**

1. Understanding Establishment-Level ICE Audits (JMP)
2. Migration in Response to Long-Run Weather Variation
3. Pulling up Stakes During Employment Aches: Unemployment Insurance and Migration

**FUNDING AWARDS**

Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy, \$7,500, Summer 2019  
UC, Irvine Department of Economics Summer Fellowship, \$2,000, Summer 2019  
UC, Irvine Department of Economics Summer Fellowship, \$2,000, Summer 2018  
Associated Graduate Students Travel Grant, \$600, Summer 2018

**CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS**

University of California, Riverside Applied Econ Seminar Series, Fall 2019  
APPAM 41st Annual Fall Research Conference, Denver, CO, Fall 2019  
University of California, Irvine Urban and IO Seminar Series, Spring 2019  
**Organized** the UCI Women in Economics Spring Workshop, Irvine, CA, Spring 2019  
APPAM Graduate Student Conference, Irvine, CA, Spring 2019  
CGPACS Graduate Student Conference, Irvine, CA, Winter 2019  
University of California, Irvine Labor-Public Seminar Series, Fall 2018  
12th Annual All-CA Labor Economics Conference (poster session), Fall 2018  
Conference of the Research Group on Development Economics, Zurich, Summer 2018  
WEAI 93rd Annual Conference, Vancouver, Canada, Summer 2018  
CU Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop, Vail, CO, Fall 2016  
Population Association of America, Washington, DC, Spring 2016

**EXPERIENCE**

*Instructor* July 2018  
Economics Department, UC, Irvine,  
• Probability and Statistics

*Graduate Research Assistant* Winter 2016 - Fall 2017  
Economics Department, UC, Irvine,  
• Researched inversion induced air pollution and health outcomes

*Teaching Assistant*  
Economics Department, UC, Irvine,  
• Public Economics  
• Applied Econometrics I  
• Managerial Economics  
• Basic Economics

August 2015 - Present

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** Data Science Certificate through UCI's Data Science Initiative, February 2019  
Founder and Coordinator of the Women in Economics Graduate Student Group at UCI, October 2018 - Present  
Editor of the graduate student led journal, *Trans-Scripts*, 2017-2018

**SOFTWARE SKILLS** Stata, R, Python, ArcGIS, Matlab, Latex

**CITIZENSHIP** US

<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>Matthew Freedman (Chair)</b> Professor Department of Economics University of California, Irvine Phone: (949) 824-8257 Email: <a href="mailto:matthew.freedman@uci.edu">matthew.freedman@uci.edu</a>	<b>Emily Owens</b> Professor Department of Criminology, Law, and Society (primary) Department of Economics (secondary) University of California, Irvine Phone: (949) 824-7929 Email: <a href="mailto:egowens@uci.edu">egowens@uci.edu</a>
	<b>Damon Clark</b> Associate Professor Department of Economics University of California, Irvine Phone: (949) 824-2056 Email: <a href="mailto:clarkd1@uci.edu">clarkd1@uci.edu</a>	<b>Vellore Arthi</b> Assistant Professor Department of Economics University of California, Irvine Phone: (949) 824-2182 Email: <a href="mailto:varthi@uci.edu">varthi@uci.edu</a>

**PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS** Colorado Ragnar Ultra-Relay (200 miles with a team of 6 runners), September 2019  
John Muir Trail, July 2018  
Cactus to Clouds Trail, November 2017

**SELECTED  
ABSTRACTS**

*Understanding Establishment-Level ICE Audits (Job Market Paper)*

There is substantial controversy, but little information, about Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE's) efforts to find and deport undocumented individuals living in the United States. Data on ICE's establishment-level audits has, until now, been scarce, making it difficult to assess what instigates them, their importance in ICE's overall domestic operations, and what impacts they have on economic outcomes. I use new data from a Freedom of Information Act request on ICE's establishment audits to evaluate their causes and consequences. I find that Secure Community roll-out, which facilitates jail audits, reduces the number of establishment ICE audits by seven percent at the county level. Further, I find little evidence that establishment audits affect formal sector employment rates among Hispanics or non-Hispanics at the county level. I also find little indication that establishment audits affect local crime rates. While establishment audits frequently receive media attention and may have important direct implications for audited employers and their workers, my findings suggest that they have limited broader economic impact.

*Migration in Response to Long-Run Weather Variation*

Global climate change is altering the landscape for farmers everywhere, causing them to adapt to new weather conditions. Using migration data from the Mexican Migration Project and a drought index from climate variables, I look at the relationship between short and medium-run changes in climate conditions on household migration decisions to the US from municipalities across Mexico. I find no relationship between short-term variation in the drought index and migration decisions. However, variation over three year averages in my climate variable will increase the probability that an individual will migrate to the United States. Using measures of destination-specific networks, I can also test whether the mechanism behind responses to long-run changes in climatic variables are linked to the progressive building of networks or if they are independent of these.

*Pulling up Stakes During Employment Aches: Unemployment Insurance and Migration*

Despite the extensive prior work on Unemployment Insurance (UI), the question of how UI generosity affects the likelihood individuals migrate remains predominantly unanswered. Using data from the Survey on Income and Program Participation (SIPP) and a state-biannual panel of UI policies, I analyze the effects of UI generosity on the likelihood that an individual moves. Results from a linear probability model show that the relationship is positive for individuals that are eligible for UI, but the estimates are imprecisely measured. I then test for heterogeneous effects among groups with a higher propensity to migrate. The results suggest that people with no children and who are younger are more likely to migrate in response to greater UI generosity. My results indicate that higher levels of UI generosity induce eligible people to move, but these effects are modest.