

# 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
2. Migration in Response to Long-Run Weather Variation
3. Pulling up Stakes During Employment Aches: Unemployment Insurance and Migration

**CONFERENCES** APPAM 41st Annual Fall Research Conference (scheduled), Denver, CO, Fall 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  
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

**FUNDING AWARDS** Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy, \$7,500, Summer 2019  
UC, Irvine Department of Economics Summer Fellowship, \$2000, Summer 2019  
UC, Irvine Department of Economics Summer Fellowship, \$2000, Summer 2018  
Associated Graduate Students Travel Grant, \$600, Summer 2018

**EXPERIENCE** *Instructor* July 2018  
Economics Department, UC, Irvine,

- ECON 15A Probability and Statistics

*Graduate Research Assistant* Winter 2017 - Fall 2018  
Economics Department, UC, Irvine,

- Researched inversion induced air pollution and health outcomes

*Teaching Assistant* August 2015 - Present  
Economics Department, UC, Irvine,

- ECON 141A Public Economics
- ECON 122A Applied Econometrics I
- ECON 140 Managerial Economics
- ECON 20A Basic Economics

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** Data Science Certificate through UCI's Data Science Initiative, Feb 2019  
Founder of the Women in Economics Graduate Student Group at UCI, October 2018  
Editor of the graduate student led journal, Trans-Scripts, 2017-2018  
Completed the John Muir Trail, July 2018

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

**CITIZENSHIP** US

**SELECTED ABSTRACTS** *Understanding Establishment-Level ICE Audits*  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has two primary methods by which to locate and deport undocumented individuals living within the United States: establishment audits and jail audits. Information on ICE's establishment-level audits have, until now, been only available sporadically and in aggregate form. This makes it difficult to assess what instigates them and their importance in ICE's overall domestic operations as well as what impact they may have on key economic drivers. I use new data on ICE's work-site audits to evaluate the extent to which Secure Communities, which facilitate jail audits, and local law enforcement impacted the frequency and effectiveness of ICE audits. I then explore how the number of and productivity of establishment audits affects crime and employment. Evidence suggests that Secure Community roll-out reduces the number of establishment ICE audits in a given county by seven percent, indicating that ICE is allocating more of its time and resources on jail audits and less so on establishment audits. Evidence also shows that Secure Community roll-out reduces the number of undocumented individuals found from establishment audits by 11 percent indicating that Secure Communities reduce the efficiency of establishment-level ICE audits. Further, establishment audits are found to result in a small increase in crime. They also reduce employment outcomes for individuals that are Hispanic and Asian, while increasing overall employment. Yet the relationship between establishment audits and Hispanic and Asian employment is imprecise. My findings indicate that while establishment audits make it more costly for ICE to find undocumented individuals, it is possible that this form of immigration enforcement is preferred given the smaller social costs incurred relative to jail audits conducted under Secure Communities.

*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.