Curriculum Vitae
Ryan Hastings

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(he/him)

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Education

2022   **Duke University**. Durham, North Carolina. Bachelor of Science, *summa cum laude*.

  Majors in   Economics, with High Distinction;
  and   Statistical Science, with Concentrations in Mathematical Statistics & Data Science;
  Minor in   Mathematics.

2018   **Unionville High School**. Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

Field Interests

Primary: Spatial Economics (Urban, Regional, & International Economics).
Secondary: Empirical Industrial Organization, Public Economics.

Work in Progress

The Supply and Demand for Consumption Amenities.
(with Jessie Handbury and Lindsay Relihan)

Abstract: Over the past two decades, the availability of consumption amenities–including retail, restaurants, and gyms–has become an important feature explaining residential neighborhood choice and local economic performance. As a result, many local economic developers and policy makers seek to reinvigorate communities through investing in initiatives that support such services. However, surprisingly little is known about the size of such investments that are required to support a local service-based economy or how such investments affect the service demand of existing residents. This paper leverages the resorting of residential and employment locations induced by the adoption of work-from-home following the COVID-19 pandemic to estimate the necessary supply and demand elasticities for modeling neighborhood change with respect to non-tradable services and the welfare impacts of those changes. Using billions of credit card transactions and a novel panel of establishments, we aim to measure both the elasticity of consumption amenity supply with respect to local customer density and the elasticity of consumption amenity demand with respect to establishment density.

Food Retailers and SNAP: Who Captures the Federal Food Dollar?
(with Lin Fan, Jessie Handbury, Ilya Rahkovsky, and Erik Scherpf)
Presented at the 2023 Agricultural and Applied Economics Association Conference.

Abstract: SNAP benefits buy 14 cents of every dollar spent on food in U.S. supermarkets. However, the effect of SNAP on the prices charged by food retailers is far from clear; the only two studies examining this issue find opposite-signed results. We present a model of consumer store choice featuring travel costs and liquidity constraints that can rationalize opposite-signed pricing responses following an increase in the per-recipient generosity of SNAP benefits than following an increase in the number of eligible households. We test the predictions of the model using administrative microdata on SNAP purchases and

scanner data on retail prices, as well as within-commuting zone variation in the generosity of benefits along both the intensive and extensive margins. We then estimate its key parameters to quantify the welfare effects of intensive and extensive margin program expansions, in terms of the surplus split by beneficiaries and retailers along with their spillover effects on food access and affordability for non-recipient households.

WORKING PAPERS

Does Responsiveness to Mortality Risk Vary by Age? Evidence from Pandemic Health Outcomes and Movement Patterns.
(Undergraduate Thesis)
Presented at the 2022 Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis European Conference.

Abstract: To examine heterogeneity in the value of statistical life (VSL) across age groups, I study the risk trade-offs that consumers faced when choosing whether to visit establishments like stores and restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic. First, I estimate heterogeneous fatality rates conditional on infection using the health outcomes of millions of COVID-19 patients. I interact these with local infection rates to create measures of mortality risk that vary across time, space, and demographic groups. Then, using a panel of cell phone GPS data tracking visits to millions of establishments before and during the pandemic, I examine how the responsiveness to infection-related mortality risk varied across age groups. My results suggest that older people's visit behaviors are less sensitive to mortality risk. Under weak assumptions, this implies that older people have a lower willingness to pay for marginal reductions in the probability of death. This finding has implications for the cost-benefit analysis of policies that mitigate adverse health outcomes, such as pandemic movement restrictions and pollution remediation, and for the VSL literature more broadly.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Calder-Wang, Sophie. "The Distributional Impact of the Sharing Economy on the Housing Market." *Working Paper*, 2023.

Couture, Victor, and Jessie Handbury. "Neighborhood Change, Gentrification, and the Urbanization of College Graduates." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 2023.

Duranton, Gilles, and Jessie Handbury. "Covid and Cities, Thus Far." *NBER Working Paper No. 31158*, 2023.

Handbury, Jessie and Sarah Moshary. "School Food Policy Affects Everyone: Retail Responses to the National School Lunch Program." *Working Paper*, 2023.

Jowers, Kay, Lala Ma, and Christopher Timmins. "Racial Dynamics of Federal Property Buyouts in Flood-Prone Areas." *Working Paper*, 2022.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

ECONOMICS
2022-2024   Research Assistant to Professor Jessie Handbury.
2022-2024   Research Assistant to Professor Sophie Calder-Wang.
2019-2022   Research Assistant to Professor Christopher Timmins.

OTHER DISCIPLINES
2021   Statistical Programming Intern, *Acumen, LLC*.

Analyzed claims and patient outcomes to evaluate a novel Medicare hospice insurance design.

2021   Research Assistant, Duke Law School, *Wilson Center for Science and Justice.*
Cleaned data and performed exploratory analysis for empirical legal research on criminal justice and bail reform.

2020   Research Assistant, Duke Sociology, *Improving Life Chance Outcomes Project.*
Designed and piloted a questionnaire for an international survey about the effects of COVID-19 on students and families.

2019-2020   Research Assistant, Duke Energy Initiative, *Bass Connections: Coal and America.*
Collected oral histories and conducted archival research about employment and migration in Central Appalachian coal communities.

2019   Research Assistant, Kenan Institute for Ethics, *Kenan Refugee Project.*
Conducted field interviews with Iraqi, Syrian, and Palestinian refugees in Amman, Jordan and Jerash Camp.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020-2022   Teaching Assistant, Duke University.

    2021(x2), 2022 ECON 205: Intermediate Microeconomics II.
    2021   MATH 343/STAT 432: Mathematical Statistics.
    2021   MATH 216: Linear Algebra & Differential Equations.
    2020   MATH 212: Multivariable Calculus.
    2020   ECON 201: Intermediate Microeconomics I.

2018-2024   Front Ensemble Instructor, Unionville High School Percussion Ensemble.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2022   Allen Starling Johnson, Jr. Best Thesis Prize.
2021   Phi Beta Kappa (junior elect).

TECHNICAL SKILLS

R, Python, Stata, SQL, SAS, Matlab, Git, Make, Unix, Slurm, SGE, LaTeX, Markdown.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2021-2022   President, Duke Ethics and Global Citizenship Living-Learning Community.
2018-2022   Project Leader, Duke Citizenship Lab.
2017-2021   Percussionist, Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps & GMU Indoor Drumline.