

Sean O'Connor

Contact Information

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Education and Certificates

May 2021 Ph.D. in Economics, **University of Oklahoma** (Expected)
May 2018 M.A. in Economics, **University of Oklahoma**
June 2015 Six Sigma Green Belt, **Villanova University**
May 2014 B.A. in Economics, **University of Massachusetts Amherst**
Minors in History and Portuguese

Fields of Research

Environmental Economics • Development Economics • Industrial Organization

Publications

- **“I am Jane. Do I Pay More in the Housing Market?”**, with Myongjin Kim, Leilei Shen, and Brent Norwood. *Economic Bulletin*, AccessEcon, vol. 39(2), pages 1612-1620.

Do women pay more than men in the housing market? We utilize repeat-sales housing data from ZTRAX to examine if gender gaps exist in house purchase prices and loan-to-price ratios. We find that female homebuyers pay a 2% premium on average. However, the gender price differentials and loan-to-price differentials are disappearing in recent years.

Working Papers

- **“Retail Marijuana Deregulation and Housing Prices,”** with Donggeun Kim and Brent Norwood. 2019.

Despite federal law, ten American states and Washington D.C. have legalized recreational marijuana since 2012. Using a national housing data set from the online real estate listing database Zillow.com, we identify the cross and inter-state effects of marijuana legalization on house prices in different points of the price distribution function.

Research Works in Progress

- **“Using Big Data to Estimate Long-Run Climate Change Adaptation: Evidence from the High Seas”**

This paper estimates long-run climate adaptation among fishing vessels in the world's oceans. Fishing production is increasingly sensitive to changes in climate conditions, making it an ideal setting to study agents' adaptability to climate change. Using a two-step estimation method, I first recover the daily sea surface temperature response function for individual commercial fishing vessels. In the second step, the estimated coefficients of the first step are explained using long-run average temperatures.

- **“Evaluating Hurricane Impacts on Housing Markets: A Synthetic Control Approach,”** with William Thorne.

Using flood data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and housing data from the online real estate database company Zillow, we test the differential impact of the storm on coastal home prices in states in the Northeast. Rebuilding and in-migration following the storm suggests that federal emergency assistance did not totally offset the economic losses among those homes in the bottom half of the distribution.

- **“Airline Mergers and De-Hubbing: Spillover Effects on the Local Housing Market,”** with Myongjin Kim and Qi Ge.

In this paper, we explore bankruptcy and shutdown episodes of regional airlines in the U.S. between 1995 and 2017 to estimate potential spillover effects in the housing market. We find a negative spillover effect that is related to the ownership structure of the involved regional airlines, with the housing price response being much stronger under bankruptcy episodes from independently owned airlines compared to those wholly owned ones.

- **“The War of 1812 and Risk Sharing in Whaling Labor Contracts,”** with William Thorne.

The 19th Century American whaling industry is notable for its unique compensation structure, in which ship owners deferred wage payments until after the production process was complete. This had the effect of insulating the owners against the risks of the high seas. We use the War of 1812 as a natural experiment, finding that the destruction of the nation’s whaling fleet by the British induced a large reallocation of risk from owners to sailors.

Seminar and Conference Presentations

1. 88th Annual Southern Economic Association Meetings, November 2018
2. Industrial Organization Workshop, University of Oklahoma Economics Department

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Intermediate Microeconomics, Summer 2019

Teaching Assistant

Principles of Microeconomics, 2016-2019

Health Economics, Fall 2019

Economics of Discrimination, Fall 2019

Technical Skills

R, UNIX Shell, Git, Python, SQL, Stata, Microsoft Office, \LaTeX

Work Experience

July 2014 - January 2015	Financial Analyst at Bob Moore Auto Group, Oklahoma City <i>Car Market Analysis</i> Maintained long-term forecasts and plans for capital structures. Researched and summarized information for executive management regarding the energy industry, economic data, and other industry-related topics for use in business decision making. Streamlined the advertising scheme by developing a more efficient system of outreach. Performed internal audits to gauge seasonal trends.
August 2013 - June 2014	Research Assistant at UMass Amherst Economics Department <i>African Development Data Work</i> Compiled unformatted survey data from the Afrobarometer network. Research examined how ethnicity affects an individual's trust in her local social institutions.

Leadership Experience

April 2012 - May 2013	Secretary of University Policy at UMass Amherst Student Government Association Served as the student liaison to the university administration, the town of Amherst, and the state government of Massachusetts. Made policy recommendations to the local administrative bodies and lobbied the state legislature on behalf of student issues.
July 2011 - July 2012	Working Class Caucus Chair at United States Student Association Provided assistance and advising to campus groups across the country on issues related to students from working-class backgrounds and their success in a university setting