Sebastian Brown

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Summary: PhD candidate in economics with a strong background in database creation and cleaning, descriptive analysis, hypothesis testing, and causal inference. Also experienced in leading teams, overseeing projects, and effectively communicating complex ideas to diverse audiences. Eager to apply economic expertise and analytical skills to solve difficult business problems with rigorous, creative solutions.

SKILLS

- Programming and Software: Python, Stata, LaTex, R, SQL, Microsoft Excel, Github
- Languages: English (native), Romanian (proficient)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, M.A. Economics   *September 2019 – Summer 2025 (Expected)*
University of California, Santa Barbara   *Santa Barbara, CA*
- Fields of Specialization: Labor Economics, Experimental and Behavioral Economics

B.S. Economics, B.S. Mathematics, Ballroom Dance Minor   *August 2015 – December 2018*
Brigham Young University   *Provo, UT*

EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Economics Department   *September 2019 – June 2025*
University of California, Santa Barbara   *Santa Barbara, CA*
- Took initiative to lead small teams of teaching assistants in course content creation, grading, and class policy decisions
- Managed course content creation and grading as leading teaching assistant for labor economics, designing and overseeing 9 tests of 30 questions each and 22 assignments of 10-15 questions each over three terms
- Taught students collectively in group section classes of up to 30 students and individually during office hours

Research Assistant, Economics Department   *June 2017 – June 2019*
Brigham Young University   *Provo, UT*
- Led a team of one other research assistant in designing and implementing an automated pipeline to gather and process elementary school breakfast and lunch menus from nearly every school district in the United States for use in nutritional economic research
- Developed skills in web scraping, data cleaning, code documentation, file organization, and optical character recognition in Python and Stata
- Coauthored book chapter with professor and one other research assistant using custom historical dataset created in Stata

RESEARCH

How Much Can I Make? Insights on Belief Updating in the Labor Market (with Kenneth Chan)
- Provided strong evidence that individuals are biased towards recent and positive information when learning about their potential earnings in the labor market
- Found that wage offer expectations were $920.53 higher than actual offers, on average
- Recommended information intervention to correct biased expectations and improve worker financial outcomes
- Presented paper findings at four academic conferences, including one interdisciplinary conference, to audiences of up to 40 experts

Combating Inequality with Transparency? Evidence from Colorado (with Thomas Fullagar)
- Used applied econometric methods to evaluate the impact of a recent state law intended to reduce the gender gap in worker pay
- Uncovered statistically significant evidence that the studied legislation adversely increased the gender gap in monthly earnings among new hires by roughly 15% in the months following implementation
- Displayed leadership by fostering communication and managing team task completion to meet a tight deadline

Gig Workers and Mandated Benefits: Evidence from Washington Ride-share Regulation
- Used applied econometric methods to evaluate the impact of a recent state law mandating minimum pay rates and paid sick leave for transportation network company drivers
- Found suggestive evidence using administrative tax data that regulation increased worker annual earnings by almost $100 a month
- Uncovered descriptive evidence using household survey data consistent with full-time drivers decreasing hours in response to higher hourly rates