

Sebastian Brown

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Summary: Labor economist with a strong background in database creation and cleaning, descriptive analysis, hypothesis testing, and causal inference. Also experienced in leading small teams, overseeing research projects, and effectively communicating complex ideas to diverse audiences. Eager to apply research expertise and analytical skills to tackle difficult problems with rigorous, creative solutions.

SKILLS

- Programming and Software: Python, Stata, Microsoft Excel, R, SQL, GitHub, LaTeX, Canvas LMS
- Languages: English (native), Romanian (proficient)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, M.A. Economics *September 2019 – September 2025*
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 teams of teaching assistants in course content creation, grading, and policy decisions
• Provided actionable student insights to leadership by creating class summary statistics in Excel
• Explained complex economic and mathematical concepts to classes of up to 30 students
• Addressed challenging student concerns during weekly office hour consultations

Research Assistant, Economics Department *June 2017 – June 2019*
Brigham Young University *Provo, UT*
• Designed an automated pipeline to gather and process elementary school 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 a peer-reviewed book chapter using a custom historical dataset created in Stata

RESEARCH

How Much Can I Make? Insights on Belief Updating in the Labor Market (with Kenneth Chan)
• Overcame data limitations in public labor market survey data by applying structural estimation techniques and cutting-edge statistical tests in Python and Stata
• Conveyed key insights on worker learning processes using tables, box plots, bar charts, and line graphs
• Recommended policy interventions to correct worker salary expectations and improve their financial outcomes
• Presented research findings at 4 conferences to audiences of up to 40 experts in economics and other sciences

Combating Inequality with Transparency? Evidence from Colorado (with Thomas Fullagar)
• Compiled and cleaned a complex panel dataset from 8 separate government and corporate data sources
• Applied causal econometric methods in Stata to evaluate the efficacy of state legislation intended to reduce the gender gap in worker pay
• Provided descriptive evidence on industry-level hiring outcomes using spreadsheets and scatter plots in Excel
• 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
• Analyzed administrative tax data with synthetic control methods to assess how state legislation on minimum benefits affected the labor market outcomes of ride-share drivers
• Used data visualization techniques in Stata to identify key trends in driver wages and working hours from household survey data