

Sebastian Brown

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics

University of California, Santa Barbara

September 2019 – June 2025 (Expected)

Santa Barbara, CA

- Fields of Specialization: Labor Economics, Experimental and Behavioral Economics
- Dissertation Committee: Peter Kuhn (Chair), Mitchell Hoffman, Ryan Oprea, and Peter Rupert
- MA Economics awarded June 2020

B.S. Economics, B.S. Mathematics, Ballroom Dance Minor

Brigham Young University

August 2015 – December 2018

Provo, UT

WORKING PAPERS

How Much Can I Make? Insights on Belief Updating in the Labor Market (with Kenneth Chan)

- Conducted original applied microeconomic research on labor market survey data
- Adapted a recently proposed statistical inference test to a new empirical context
- Applied data fitting methods (MSM, kernel density estimation, normal distribution fitting) to overcome an issue in data comparability
- Uncovered novel behavioral findings of non-Bayesian learning and asymmetric belief updating
- Findings imply information policy would be effective in correcting inaccurate wage offer expectations
- Created informative tables and figures
- Presented paper results at four academic conferences

Combating Inequality with Transparency? Evidence from Colorado (with Thomas Fullagar)

- Conducted original applied microeconomic research on several different datasets, including both government survey data and corporate job posting data
- Applied causal econometric methods (synthetic control, staggered difference-in-difference) to evaluate the efficacy of a recent law requiring transparency of salary information in job postings
- Found no causal evidence that the law accomplished its purpose of reducing gender pay gaps
- Explored why the law might not have been effective using statistical inference and economic theory

WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Economics Department

University of California, Santa Barbara

September 2019 – Present

Santa Barbara, CA

- Classes: Labor Economics, Personnel Economics, Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (I & II), Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, Principles of Microeconomics
- Given an average of 4.5/5 in ability to answer students' questions by students in most recent evaluation
- Regularly 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 sole teaching assistant for labor economics course twice

Research Assistant, Economics Department

Brigham Young University

June 2017 – June 2019

Provo, UT

- Led team of one other research assistant in creating an automated pipeline to gather and process elementary school lunch menus from the internet for use in nutritional economic research
- Developed skills in web scraping, data cleaning, code documentation, file organization, and optical character recognition (OCR) in Python and Stata to create school menus database
- Coauthored book chapter with professor and one other research assistant

Teaching Assistant, Economics Department

Brigham Young University

September 2016 - June 2017

Provo, UT

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- Programming and other software: Python, Stata, SQL, LaTeX, R, Microsoft Office
- Languages: English (native), Romanian (proficient)

PRESENTATIONS

BYU Economics Graduate Student Conference	<i>June 2022, Brigham Young University</i>
All California Labor Economics Conference (Graduate Poster Session)	<i>September 2023, UC Santa Barbara</i>
59th Edwards Bayesian Research Conference	<i>February 2024, CSU Fullerton</i>
BYU Economics Graduate Student Conference	<i>June 2024, Brigham Young University</i>
All California Labor Economics Conference	<i>September 2024, UC Los Angeles</i>

PUBLICATIONS

Price, Joseph, Sebastian Brown, and Jacob Van Leeuwen. "Chapter 8: Baseball and life expectancy: evidence from linked historical data." In *Historical Perspectives on Sports Economics: Lessons from the Field*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781788977845>.