Senan Hogan-Hennessy

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Doctoral Studies

Cornell University (in progress) 2020–2026
Ph.D. Economics
Fields: Labour economics, applied econometrics.

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Dissertation Committee and References

Douglas Miller (Chair)
Professor, Economics
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Associate Professor, Economics
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Evan Riehl
Associate Professor, Economics
Cornell, Industrial Labour Relations
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Prior Education

Pomona College, USA 2018
B.A. Economics + mathematics

Citizenship Great Britain, Ireland. **Gender:** Male.

Languages English (native).

Teaching Experience

Intro to labour economics (undergraduate, Cornell course ILRE–2400) 2024
Teaching assistant to Professor Stephanie Thomas.

Applied econometrics (graduate, Cornell course ECON–6590) 2022
Teaching assistant to Professor Douglas Miller.

Econometrics (undergraduate, Pomona College course ECON–167) 2017–2018
Teaching assistant to Professor Pierangelo De Pace.

Microeconomic theory (undergraduate, Pomona College course ECON–101) 2016
Teaching assistant to Professor John Clithero.

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Cornell University 2021–2026.
Professor Seth Sanders (Econ), 2025–2026.
Professor Chris Barrett (Dyson), 2023–2024.
Professor Louis Hyman (ILR), 2021.

Data Science Intern, The Behaviouralist (London UK) 2020
Assistant to Professors Robert Hahn (Oxford), Robert Metcalfe (USC).

Research Associate, Harvard Business School 2019
Assistant to Professor Daniel Gross.

Awards

Research Seed Grant, Cornell Center for the Study of Inequality 2024
Small Labour Grant, Cornell University ILR 2024
Conference Travel Grant, Cornell University Graduate School 2023, 2024, 2025
Sage Fellowship, Cornell University 2020, 2024
Lorne D Cook Memorial Award, Pomona College 2018
Distinction in Undergraduate Thesis, Pomona College 2018
Sutton Trust — Fulbright Programme, London UK 2013–2014

Professional

Presentations:

European Economic Association Annual Congress, Bordeaux France 2025
Econometric Society World Congress, Seoul Korea 2025
European Association of Labour Economists Conference, NHH Norway 2024
Economics Department Alumni Conference, Cornell University 2024
Eastern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Boston USA 2024
Center for the Study of Inequality, Cornell University 2024
Labour Work in Progress Seminar, Cornell University 2021, 2022, and so on.

Research Papers

The Labour Market Effects of Genetics and Education (2025, JMP).
(Draft forthcoming)

Causal Mediation in Natural Experiments (2025).
Natural experiments are a cornerstone of applied economics, providing settings for estimating causal effects with a compelling argument for treatment ignorability. Applied researchers often investigate mechanisms behind treatment effects by controlling for a mediator of interest, alluding to Causal Mediation (CM) methods for estimating direct and indirect effects (CM effects). This approach to investigating mechanisms unintentionally assumes the mediator is quasi-randomly assigned — in addition to the quasi-random assignment of the initial treatment. Individuals' choice to take (or refuse) a mediator based on costs and benefits is inconsistent with mediator ignorability, suggesting in-practice estimates of CM effects are biased in natural experiment settings. I solve for explicit bias terms when the mediator is not ignorable, imitating classical selection bias for average causal effects. I consider an alternative approach to credibly estimate CM effects, when selection-into-mediator is driven by unobserved costs and benefits. The approach uses a control function adjustment, relying on mediator take-up cost as an instrument. Simulations confirm that this method corrects for selection bias in conventional CM estimates, providing both parametric and semi-parametric methods. This approach gives applied researchers an alternative method to estimate CM effects when they can only establish a credible argument for quasi-random assignment of the initial treatment, and not a mediator, as is common in natural experiments.

Less Funding, More Lecturers, and Fewer Professors (2024).
Public universities employ more lecturers and fewer professors today than at any other point in the last thirty years, relative to student enrolment. At the same time, state funding for higher education has stagnated. This paper shows that the decline in state funding led to a substitution away from professors toward lecturers at US public universities. Using a shift-share approach to instrument for state funding, I find that universities employ 4.4% more lecturers per student following a 10% funding cut. This shift is accompanied by a reduction in assistant and full professors by 1.4% and 1.2% per student, respectively. These effects are concentrated to 1990–2009, with waning national trends for 2010 and onwards. Incumbent professors' salaries, promotion rates, and quit rates at Illinois universities remain unaffected by large funding cuts in the 2010s, indicating that the substitution arose from limiting the hiring of new professors. Stagnating state funding impacts public universities and faculty, likely contributing to deteriorating student outcomes at public universities since the 1990s.

Food Insecurity Among Military Veterans (2025).
Joint with Seungmin Lee (Notre Dame), Chris Barrett, John Hoddinott (Cornell), Matthew Rabbitt (USDA).
(Draft Forthcoming)

Other

Personal Interests: Yoga, road cycling, open source software.
Programming: R, Python, Bash, LaTeX.