Senan Hogan-Hennessy

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

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Prior Education	Pomona College, USA B.A. Economics + mathematics	2018
Citizenship	Great Britain, Ireland.	**Gender:** Male.
Languages	English (native).	

Teaching Experience	Intro to labour economics (undergraduate, Cornell course ILRE–2400) Teaching assistant to Professor Stephanie Thomas.	2024
	Applied econometrics (graduate, Cornell course ECON–6590) Teaching assistant to Professor Douglas Miller.	2022
	Econometrics (undergraduate, Pomona College course ECON–167) Teaching assistant to Professor Pierangelo De Pace.	2017–2018
	Microeconomic theory (undergraduate, Pomona College course ECON–101) Teaching assistant to Professor John Clithero.	2016

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

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 randomisation, but give little indication of the mechanisms behind causal effects. Causal Mediation (CM) provides a framework to analyse mechanisms by identifying the average direct and indirect effects (CM effects), yet conventional CM methods require the relevant mediator is as-good-as-randomly assigned. When people choose the mediator based on costs and benefits (whether to visit a doctor, to attend university, etc.), this assumption fails and conventional CM analyses are at risk of bias. I propose a control function strategy that uses instrumental variation in mediator take-up costs, delivering unbiased direct and indirect effects when selection is driven by unobserved gains. The method identifies CM effects via the marginal effect of the mediator, with parametric or semi-parametric estimation that is simple to implement in two stages. Applying these methods to the Oregon Health Insurance Experiment reveals a substantial portion of the Medicaid lottery's effect on self-reported health and happiness flows through increased healthcare usage — an effect that a conventional CM analysis would mistake. This approach gives applied researchers an alternative method to estimate CM effects when an initial treatment is quasi-randomly assigned, but the mediator is not, as is common in natural experiments.

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

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.