

Picker Fellowship Report

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Fall 2017

Summary

During Fall 2017 I received a Picker Fellowship to drive certain ongoing projects towards a more concluded status and to develop new projects initially developed during my sabbatical in Spring 2017.

Autonomy and Control

One of my main projects during Fall 2017 was to work on the revisions to my paper “The hidden benefits of abstaining from control” which at that point was a revise and re-submit at the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization. My co-authors and I prepared a revision report and concluded new data analysis which I undertook (I was in charge of data management and analysis for the majority of the project) and we submitted the revisions during Fall 2017. The paper was published in Spring 2018 as the lead article in volume 147 of the journal.

Data Literacy and Development

Having taught ECO211 (Economic Development) at Smith College and using data from the South African National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS), I had collaborated with people from the Southern African Labor and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) working on NIDS during my sabbatical at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. I continued work on the paper and submitted it to the Journal of Economic Education during Fall 2017 given the work I had undertaken that Spring. The paper was reviewed and given a revise and re-submit, after which I conducted the revisions subsequent to the Picker Fellowship in AY2018-19 and the paper will be published in Spring 2019 (it is forthcoming).

R Markdown and Economics Education

During Spring 2017 I had helped to facilitate a workshop at Pomona College with Project TIER (Teachin Integrity in Empirical Research). During my sabbatical at UCT, I conducted similar workshops as part of my TIER Faculty Fellowship for graduate students at UCT and base on work I would be doing during my Picker Fellowship in Fall 2017 in Behavioral Economics. Based on this work with undergraduate students and in collaboration with co-authors at Carleton College, St. Lawrence University and Union College, we subsequently wrote up

the paper during Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 and submitted it to the Journal of Economic Education. Having received a positive revise and re-submit decision, we have conducted the revisions and await a decision by the editors on the revisions.

Peer Pressure in South African Schools

During my sabbatical I had begun work with potential collaborators at the University of Cape Town to try to investigate the role of peer pressure and information asymmetry in education in South African high schools. Though we had made some strides towards applying for grants, we decided against pursuing the project further until after I go through my tenure review and conclude other projects in the medium term (and while my one collaborator concludes a term as chair of the economics department at the University of Cape Town).

Microeconomics: Competition, Coordination and Conflict

My ongoing project with Samuel Bowles surrounds an intermediate microeconomics textbook that we are writing. We continued work on the book during Fall 2017 prior to sending it out for review during Spring 2018. We have recently signed a contract with Oxford University Press and the book will be published in Spring 2020.