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PLACEMENT CHAIRS

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REFERENCES

Douglas Almond

Department of Economics
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Columbia University
da2152@columbia.edu

Sandra Black

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Columbia University
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Adam Sacarny

Assistant Professor
Department of Health
Policy and Management
Columbia University
Mailman School of Public
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EDUCATION

Columbia University

Ph.D. in Economics

2022 (expected)

M.Phil in Economics

2019

M.A. in Economics

2018

Harvard University

B.A. in Economics, *magna cum laude*

2013

FIELDS

Applied Microeconomics, Health Care and Education

JOB MARKET PAPER

Regulation Attenuation: Effects of Cross-Border Spillovers on Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs in the Opioid Epidemic

Abstract: Prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs)—online systems that providers and pharmacists can use to query patient prescription records—are one of the most widely-used state tools in regulating the prescribing and dispensing of opioids. However, the staggered adoption of PDMPs over the years has created opportunities for patients to evade detection by the system by crossing into a state that does not have a PDMP. This paper fills a gap in the existing literature by evaluating the impact of attenuating spillovers that arise when states in proximity to each other do not coordinate their PDMP policies. I first provide

a theoretical framework to predict the expected outcomes in states affected by two types of spillovers: those from a state with a PDMP to a state without the policy and vice versa. I then test the predictions by estimating the direct and spillover effects of a PDMP in counties with and without the policy on the quantity of opioids shipped to retail pharmacies and opioid-related mortality. The design of the event study accounts for the fact that counties over time can be exposed to different types of spillovers. I find that, consistent with predictions, opioid quantity and prescription opioid-related mortality decrease in treated counties insulated from spillovers and counties with and without a PDMP that are exposed to spillovers. Contrary to predictions, mortality due to illicit opioids also decreases in these counties. I provide additional robustness checks for the results.

PUBLICATIONS

What Can UWE Do for Economics?

with [Claudia Goldin](#). *AEA Papers and Proceedings*. 2018;108: 186-190.

Abstract: Men outnumber women as undergraduate economics majors by three to one nationwide. Even at the best research universities and liberal arts colleges men outnumber women by two to one or more. The Undergraduate Women in Economics Challenge began in 2015 as an RCT with 20 treatment schools and at least 30 control schools to evaluate whether better course information, mentoring, encouragement, career counseling, and more relevant instructional content could move the needle. Although the RCT is still in the field, results from several within treatment-school randomized trials demonstrate that uncomplicated and inexpensive interventions can substantially increase women in economics.

WORKING PAPERS

What Can UWE Do for Economics?

with [Claudia Goldin](#) (2018). Available as NBER Working Paper 24189.

See abstract above.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Nudging Providers to Curtail Dangerous Opioid Prescribing: A Trial to Investigate Mechanisms

with [Mireille Jacobson](#), [Weston Merrick](#), [David Powell](#), [Adam Sacarny](#), and [Ian Williamson](#)

Abstract: Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMPs) aim to reduce inappropriate opioid prescribing but may be underutilized by clinicians. To test whether provider letters can increase PMP use and decrease co-prescriptions of opioids and benzodiazepines or gabapentinoids, we conduct a randomized clinical trial of 12,000 prescribers in Minnesota whose patients had filled an opioid prescription and either a benzodiazepine or gabapentinoid prescription in the four months prior to randomization. Prescribers received an initial and follow-up letter highlighting either 1) a new PMP use requirement, 2) a list of up to five patients with opioid co-prescriptions, 3) both the PMP use requirement and the patient co-prescription list or 4) control (no letters). We find that in the 60 days post

intervention, treated prescribers were 2.9 percentage points (p.p.) more likely to search the PMP than prescribers in the control group, with statistically significant effects for prescribers receiving letters on the PMP use requirement alone or with the patient co-prescription list (increase in likelihood to search by 4.3 p.p. and 4 p.p., respectively). The interventions did not statistically significantly reduce the number of patients with an opioid co-prescription. Higher PMP search rates persisted for at least 90 days for prescribers receiving letters highlighting PMP use requirements relative to control.

Impact of New Curriculum for Introductory Economics Courses on Student Opinions and Economic Knowledge

with [Rena Rosenberg](#) and [Sarah Thomas](#)

Abstract: Curriculum Open-access Resources for Economics (CORE) is an alternative curriculum to teach introductory economics. The goal of the CORE USA Project is to expand student reach and to inspire a more diverse student body to pursue economics long-term by making course content more relevant and accessible. We conduct two confidential surveys with students enrolled in spring 2020 introductory economics courses at Columbia University and Barnard College. The two surveys, conducted at the start and end of the semester, ask students about their reasons for enrolling in the course, their interest in the field of economics and career aspirations, and their opinions about markets and traits important for success as an economist. The surveys also assess their knowledge of economic concepts and data literacy. We compare responses for student enrolled in courses that use CORE to those of students enrolled in courses that follow a more traditional curriculum. We complement our quantitative research with qualitative findings from focus groups conducted in spring 2020 and spring 2021.

Patient Cost Sharing and Prescription Drug Trends: Evidence from Japan

Abstract: This paper studies the impact of patient cost sharing on the number of drug prescriptions and on the overall costs of prescription drugs by exploiting a feature of the Japanese health care system, where an individual's coinsurance rate is determined primarily by their age. I contribute to the previous research by investigating heterogeneous effects due to patient sex and drug therapeutic class (two “essential” classes, cardiovascular and antibiotics, and two “non-essential” classes, vitamins and antihistamines). Using publicly available aggregate data, I find that for the whole sample of drugs, price elasticity of demand ranges from -0.42 to -0.86 , and price elasticity for medical spending ranges from -0.31 to -0.67 , depending on the model specification. These estimates stand in contrast to previous estimates of price elasticity of demand (-0.16 to -0.2) and spending (-0.2), suggesting that patients have higher elasticity for prescription drugs than for other medical services. I also find that there are no heterogeneous effects by sex over the whole sample of drugs, but there are notable differences by sex for certain therapeutic classes of drugs. Finally, the data suggests that Japanese patients are more likely to be prescribed brand-name medications, but patients on generics may be more price sensitive to changes in patient cost sharing. Research on the topic has implications for designing more targeted government policy that could reduce health care costs, but more work is needed to assess patient health outcomes.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & HONORS

2021-22	<i>Dissertation Fellowship</i> (Columbia University)
2020-21	<i>Wueller Teaching Award</i> , runner-up for best teaching assistant for undergraduate electives (Department of Economics, Columbia University)
2019-20	<i>Wueller Teaching Award</i> , best teaching assistant for undergraduate electives (Department of Economics, Columbia University)
2018-19	<i>Alison Hanson Jones Fellowship for Economics and History</i> (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University)
2018-19	<i>Wueller Teaching Award</i> , runner-up for best teaching assistant for principles of economics (Department of Economics, Columbia University)
2018	<i>Harriss Prize</i> , runner-up for best 2 nd year PhD paper (Department of Economics, Columbia University, for “Patient Cost Sharing and Prescription Drug Trends: Evidence from Japan”)
2017-18	<i>Wueller Teaching Award</i> , best teaching assistant for principles of economics (Department of Economics, Columbia University)
2013-14	<i>Fulbright Research Fellowship</i> , University of Tsukuba
2013	<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i>
2013	<i>ACTR National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest</i> , Second Place (Heritage Learners, Level 3)
2012-13	<i>Tazuko Ajiro Monane Prize</i> (Harvard University, for outstanding achievement in the study of the Japanese language)
2009-10	<i>Harvard College Scholar</i>

CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2021	<i>LACDev (Liberal Arts College Development) Conference</i> , Oberlin College*
2020	<i>Allied Social Sciences Association Annual Meeting</i> , San Diego, CA (“Promoting Female Participation in Undergraduate Economics” paper session)
2019	CORE USA 2019 Workshop, Barnard College
2018	<i>Undergraduate Women in Economics Conference</i> , University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
2018	<i>Allied Social Sciences Association Annual Meeting</i> , Philadelphia, PA (“Gender Issues in Economics” paper session)

* marks discussant

CONFERENCE & SEMINAR ORGANIZING

2017-2020	<i>Student Research Breakfast</i> , Department of Economics, Columbia University
2020	<i>Diverse Economics Conference: People, Perspectives, Careers</i> , with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and Robins School of Business, University of Richmond

2019	<i>Diverse Economics Conference: People, Perspectives, Careers</i> , with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and Robins School of Business, University of Richmond
2019	<i>Young Economists Symposium</i> , Department of Economics, Columbia University
2018	<i>Undergraduate Women in Economics Conference</i> , University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
2017	<i>Undergraduate Women in Economics Conference</i> , Colorado State University
2016	<i>Undergraduate Women in Economics Conference</i> , University of Virginia

APPOINTMENTS

Jan – May 2021	Research Assistant for Adam Sacarny, Columbia University
Jan – May 2020	Research Assistant for CORE USA Project, Barnard College
Aug 2014 – 2020	Project Manager, Undergraduate Women in Economics Challenge, for Claudia Goldin, National Bureau of Economic Research
Jun – Jul 2012	Research Assistant for Kazuo Yamaguchi, Research Institute of Economy, Trade, and Industry (RIETI), Japan
Jun – Aug 2011	Research Assistant for Claudia Goldin, Harvard University
Jun – Aug 2011	Research Assistant for Nathan Nunn, Harvard University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE & TRAINING

Columbia University

<i>Principles of Economics</i>	Instructor, Summer 2020 Teaching assistant, S2019 (with Prof. Brendan O’Flaherty) Teaching assistant, S2018 (with Prof. Sunil Gulati)
<i>Economic Development of Japan</i>	Teaching assistant, F2020 (with Prof. David Weinstein) Teaching assistant, F2019 (with Dr. Edward Lincoln) Teaching assistant, F2018 (with Prof. David Weinstein) Teaching assistant, F2017 (with Prof. David Weinstein)

Columbia Mailman School of Public Health

<i>Analysis of Large Scale Data</i>	Teaching assistant, F2019 (with Prof. Adam Sacarny) Teaching assistant, F2018 (with Prof. Adam Sacarny)
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Training and Other

Spring 2021	<i>Pedagogies of Race and Oppression Learning Community</i> , Columbia GSAS Office of Academic Diversity and Inclusion and Columbia's Center for Teaching and Learning
Spring 2021	<i>Inclusive Teaching Seminar</i> , Columbia’s Center for Teaching and Learning

September 2021

Summer 2018 *Innovative Teaching Summer Institute (ITSI)*, Columbia's Center for Teaching and Learning

Spring 2016 Non-Resident Tutor in Economics, Harvard University

REFEREEING

Journals: *Southern Economic Journal*

Conferences: *Young Economists Symposium* (2018, 2019, 2020)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Economic Association, Undergraduate Women in Economics

PERSONAL

Citizenship USA, Russian Federation

Languages Russian (native), English (native), Japanese (JLPT N2), French (conversational), Spanish (conversational)