

Tom Zohar

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EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, Stanford University
• Expected Completion June 2021
• Dissertation: *Out of Labor and into the Labor Force: Abortion Access & The Unplanned Child Penalty*

Visiting Student in Economics, UC Berkeley Fall 2012

BA in Economics, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) - Summa Cum Laude 2013

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Prof. Ran Abramitzky (Primary)
Economics Department, Stanford University
(650) 723-9276
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FIELDS

Labor and Public Economics

RESEARCH

JMP: *Out of Labor and into the Labor Force? The Role of Abortion Access, Social Stigma, and Financial Constraints* (with Nina Brooks)
[Latest Version](#)

This paper studies the effects of abortion access on fertility and women's career outcomes. To establish causality, we leverage a policy change that in 2014 increased the eligibility age cutoff for free abortion in Israel. We use newly constructed administrative data that allows us to track abortions, births, employment, earnings, and formal education for the universe of Israeli women over a seven-year period. We show that access to free abortion increases the abortion rate but does not increase conceptions. Instead, the result is driven by more abortions among poor women who live in religious communities in which abortion is socially stigmatized. This finding suggests that when abortion is free, poor women do not need to consult family members for financial support, which allows them to have an abortion in private. In the medium-run, access to free abortion delays parenthood, increases human capital investment, and shifts employment towards the white-collar sector, suggesting a large career opportunity cost of unplanned parenthood. Finally, we show that if the

government's objective is to remove financial constraints to abortion access, means-tested funding does a better job than the existing age-based policy.

Decomposing the Intergenerational Transmission of Income (with Caue Dobbin)
[Latest Version](#)

Children of high-income parents are more likely to earn a high income themselves. This pattern can be, in part, attributed to differences in human capital, since early life conditions are essential in building skills. However, in an imperfect labor market, individuals with the same abilities and different family backgrounds might end up with different outcomes, due to wage-setting and hiring policies. In this paper, we quantify the contribution of factors other than skill to the intergenerational persistence of earnings. For this purpose, we decompose the observed correlation between father's and children's earnings into labor market participation, firm-specific wage premium, and skill. We find that differences in labor market participation and access to better-paying firms are responsible for 28% and 22% of the intergenerational elasticity of earnings, respectively.

Head to the Foxes or Tail to the Lions? The Importance of within Location Ordinal Rank in Childhood Environment (with Tslil Aloni and Hadar Avivi)
[Slides](#)

Little is known about the importance of household relative income rank within a location on the adulthood outcomes of the child. In this project we answer this question in the context of childhood location environment, conditional on family resources and locations effects. Our preliminary results suggest a U-shape relationship - kids from both poor and rich families, relative to their location income distributions, enjoy a strong and positive effect on adulthood earnings compared to the median household earners in their location. Furthermore, being of low rank within a locality boosts one's high-school and SAT outcomes, as well as obtaining a post-secondary degree. However, we do not see these education effects for children from high rank within a locality, suggesting that the increase in adulthood earnings for the relatively rich children downstream through other channels.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Head-TA of Stanford's Economics Department	2018 - Present
	Labor Economics (Undergrad), Stanford, Prof. John Pencavel	Fall 2017
RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	Research Assistant, Prof. Ran Abramitzky (Stanford)	2016-2018
	Field Research Assistant (Tanzania), Prof. Melanie Morten	Summer 2016
	Management Consultant, Deloitte	2014-2015
	Lab Research Assistant, Prof. Tali Regev (IDC)	2012-2013
FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS	Out of Labor and into the Labor Force: Abortion Access & The Unplanned Child Penalty Donor:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leonard W. Ely and Shirley R. Ely Graduate Student Fellowship (\$29,958) • Shultz Fellowship - November 2018 (\$12,500) 	

- Shultz Fellowship - April 2018 (\$8,500)
- Graduate Research Opportunity Funds (\$4,500)
- FSI GOES large research grant (\$5,700)

Reassessing inequality: A revealed preference approach Donor:

- Shultz Fellowship - April 2018 (\$18,516)
- Shultz Fellowship - Nov 2017 (\$46,840)
- Stanford Center for Computational Social Science (\$2,000)

Honors Fellowship, IDC (\$13,500)

Berkeley Economics Semester Abroad Program Fellowship (\$2,000)

Rotary Fellowship (\$1,200)

PRESENTATIONS

Out of Labor and into the Labor Force: Abortion Access & The Unplanned Child Penalty

- APPAM Fall Research Conference, November 2020, Washington D.C.
- SEA Annual Meeting, November 2020, New Orleans
- PAA Annual Meeting, April 2020, Virtual
- APPAM International Conference, July 2019, University Pompeu Fabra
- IRES Graduate Workshop, May 2019, Chapman University
- APPAM CA Student Conference, April 2019, UC Irvine

OTHER

Nationalities: Israeli, Portuguese (Pending)

Languages: Hebrew (native), English (fluent)

Software: R, Stata, Matlab, Python, \LaTeX , Git

LAST UPDATE December 2020