

Trevor T. Osaki

2045 North Hall

Department of Economics

University of California, Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Email: tosaki@ucsb.edu

Phone: (714) 357-8819

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/trevorosaki>

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Economics of Education, and Public Economics

EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)

Ph.D., Economics

Expected 2023

M.A., Economics

2018

Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

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

2017

RESEARCH

Working Papers

The Effects of Test-Optional Admissions on Underrepresented Minority Enrollment and Graduation

Abstract: A growing number of colleges and universities have made the submission of college entrance exam scores optional for undergraduate admissions to bolster racial diversity. This study uses institutional panel data from IPEDS and applies a two-way fixed effects approach to determine whether the policy is effective at achieving this goal. It also estimates the impact of the policy on the graduation rates for underrepresented minority (URM) students. It finds that the policy has a small but positive effect on the fraction of first-time students enrolling at liberal arts colleges that are of a URM background. The effects of this policy on URM 4-year and 6-year graduation rates are heterogeneous across colleges by their selectivity in admissions, where relatively less selective colleges experience declines in these graduation rates. Finally, this study finds some evidence that the URM enrollment effects are initially muted at colleges adopting the policy relatively early in the panel, but these effects grow over time.

When is Discrimination Unfair? (with Peter Kuhn) – NBER Working Paper 30236

Abstract: Using a vignette-based survey experiment on Amazon’s Mechanical Turk, we measure how people’s assessments of the fairness of race-based hiring decisions vary with the motivation and circumstances surrounding the discriminatory act and the races of the parties involved. Regardless of their political leaning, our subjects do not distinguish between taste-based and statistical discrimination, but they react in very similar ways to other aspects of the act, such as the quality of information on which statistical discrimination is based. Compared to conservatives, moderates and liberals are much less accepting of discriminatory actions, and consider the discriminatee’s race when making their fairness assessments. We describe four simple models of fairness – utilitarianism, race-blind rules (RBRs), racial in-group bias, and belief-based utilitarianism (BBU) – and show that the latter two are inconsistent with major patterns in our data. Instead, we argue that a two-group model in which conservatives care only about race-blind rules (RBRs), while moderates and liberals care about both RBRs and utilitarian ethics can account for the main patterns we see.

In-Progress

The Perks of Perkins Loans

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UCSB, Department of Economics, Santa Barbara, CA

Teaching Assistant

2017 – present

Courses:

ECON 1, Principles of Microeconomics

ECON 101, Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory

ECON 9, Introduction of Economics (for non-ECON majors)

ECON 10A: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I

ECON 100B: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory II

ECON 134A: Financial Management

ECON 113B: Twentieth Century U.S. Economic History

ECON 107A: History of Economic Thought I

ECON 140A: Introduction to Econometrics I

ECON 150B: Labor Economics II

Department of Mathematics, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

Facilitator, Academic Mastery Program

2016 – 2017

SERVICE

Cerritos College, Norwalk, CA

Advisor, Pathway to Success

2020 – present

UCSB, Department of Economics, Santa Barbara, CA
Advisor, Senior Honors Thesis (ECON 196) 2021
 Advisee: Tejal Kolte

PRESENTATIONS

Consortium of Applied Research in Economics Seminar (UCSB)	2022
Applied Microeconomics Lunch (UCSB)	2022
Trans-Pacific Labor Workshop	2022
David P. Gardner Seminar (University of California, Berkeley)	2022
Applied Microeconomics Lunch (UCSB)	2021

AWARDS & HONORS

Outstanding Undergraduate Course TA (Winter Quarter), UCSB	2022
David P. Gardner Fellowship, Center of Studies in Higher Education, University of California, Berkeley	2021-2022
Research Fellowship, UCSB Department of Economics	2019
Graduate Recruitment Fellowship, UCSB Department of Economics	2017
Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Chapter of California, Occidental College	2017
Ford Research Mentor's Endowment Fellowship	2016
Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America	2010

SKILLS

Advanced: Stata, R, L^AT_EX, and Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, & Powerpoint)
Basic: Matlab

PERSONAL

Citizenship: United States of America

REFERENCES

Placement Officer:	Erik Eyster (erikeyster@ucsb.edu)
Graduate Administrator:	Mark Patterson (mark.patterson@ucsb.edu)

Kelly Bedard (Main advisor)
 Department of Economics
 University of California, Santa Barbara
 Email: kelly.bedard@ucsb.edu

Peter Kuhn
 Department of Economics
 University of California, Santa Barbara
 Email: peter.kuhn@ucsb.edu

Gonzalo Vazquez-Bare
 Department of Economics
 University of California, Santa Barbara
 Email: gvazquez@econ.ucsb.edu

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