

Usamah Wasif

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EDUCATION

University Of New Mexico

Doctor of Philosophy in Economics

Albuquerque, NM

Aug. 2016 – July 2022

University of New Mexico

Master of Arts in Economics

Albuquerque, NM

Aug. 2016 – May 2018

San Diego State University

Master of Arts in Economics

San Diego, CA

Aug. 2014 – May 2016

University of Aberdeen

Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Accountancy

Aberdeen, UK

Aug. 2009 – May 2013

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Fellow – Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI

Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC)

August 2022 – Present

- Project lead - project management, task and team management, and timeline planning
- Data management - cleaning and organizing raw Michigan administration education data and creating final analysis data file for EPIC use
- Empirical Analysis - data visualization, descriptive statistics, attrition analysis, regression analysis, machine learning, crosswalk creation, and validation analysis

Research Assistant – University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM

Native American Budget and Policy Institute (NABPI)

Dec 2022 – May 2022

- Economic analysis of the Native American population in New Mexico
- Contributing to policy brief for the Native American Chamber of Commerce

National Institute of Health (NIH) Grant

May 2021 – Aug 2021

- Modelled COVID-19 restrictions as a function of political affiliations
- Econometric and applied methods consultant

BA/MD Program Health Research

Aug 2019 – May 2022

- Modelled high school enrollment for vulnerable populations
- Analyzed the relationship between SNAP participation and educational attainment
- Responsible for collecting, merging and cleaning datasets for regression analysis

Institute of Design and Innovation (IDI)

Dec 2018 – May 2020

- Modelled University of New Mexico enrollment demand for admissions and retention margins
- Co-authored white paper on pricing strategies for University of New Mexico Budget Leadership Team (BLT)
- Developed, cleaned and prepared University of New Mexico administrative student data for research projects

Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) Extramural Grant

Aug 2019 – July 2020

- Researched spillover and substitution effects between SNAP assistance and disability benefits
- Estimated regression models using Current Population Survey (CPS) micro-data and state aggregate data
- Responsible for collecting, merging and cleaning datasets for regression analysis

Research Assistant – San Diego State University

San Diego, CA

Center for Health and Policy Studies (CHEPS)

Aug 2014 – June 2016

- Responsible for researching and coding laws for research purposes. E.g. Anti-Bullying Laws
- Data cleaning, manipulation and merging to create new datasets for center usage
- Conducted empirical analysis and estimated regression models for multiple projects

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor – University of New Mexico

Fall 2021/2022

ECON2110 Microeconomic Principles

Teaching Assistant – University of New Mexico

Fall 2016/2017 – Spring 2020/2021

ECON427 Topics in Labor Economics

ECON335 Health Economics

ECON331 Economics of Poverty and Discrimination

ECON309 Introduction to Statistics and Economics

HMHV301 Health Economics, Politics, and Policy

ECON300 Intermediate Microeconomics

ECON295 Economics of Higher Education

ECON2120 Microeconomic Principles

ECON2110 Macroeconomic Principles

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

UNM Health and Social Policy Doctoral Fellow | UNM Center for Social Policy July 2019 – July 2022

- Received empirical methods training in quantitative survey design and weighting methodologies
- Surveyed vulnerable populations in New Mexico for NM Department of Health
- Co-authored report/plan for vaccination of vulnerable population for NM Department of Health

Center for Health and Policy Studies Graduate Affiliate | SDSU Economics Aug 2017 – July 2022

Adam Smith Fellowship | Mercatus Center

July 2019 – June 2020

Transdisciplinary Research, Equity and Engagement Center Trainee | TREE Center Spring 2019

- National Institute of Aging (NIA) grant training component
- Received methods training in time-series analysis for the study of aging populations

Center for Health and Policy Studies (formerly CREEP) Fellow | SDSU Economics Aug 2014 – June 2016

- Risky health behavior research

Center for Public Economics Scholarship | San Diego State University

Spring 2016

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Wasif, U., Estes, K., Berrens R. (2020) “Price Elasticity of Enrollment for Undergraduate Admission and Retention Decisions at the University of New Mexico, 2010-2018”. Description: Estimated optimal pricing strategies for in-state students by use of demand modeling and machine learning techniques for adoption by the UNM Long-Term Budget Strategy Committee and UNM Leadership Board.

Gutierrez, K, **Wasif, U.**, Brown, J, Pradhan, A, Griego, V, Salinas, L. (2021) “COVID-19 Vaccine Equity: Implications for Unhoused and Sex Worker Populations”. Description: We surveyed vulnerable populations (e.g., unhoused people and sex workers) and case workers. Analyzed survey results to create effective vaccination strategies for vulnerable populations to be reviewed and adopted by the New Mexico Department of Health.

Kilbride, T., Strunk, K., Rogers, S., **Wasif, U.** (2023) “Tracking Progress Through Michigan’s Teacher Pipeline.” Description: In this report, we combine data about students in Michigan’s K-12 public schools and public universities with educator certification testing, credentialing, and employment records to examine how the pool of prospective Michigan teachers changes as candidates progress through the pipeline and into the workforce.

WORKING PAPERS

Wasif, U., Berren, R., Santos, R. (2024). “The Impact of Pell Grant Aid on Academic Outcomes and Degree Mismatch” (Submitted; Job Market Paper)

Wasif, U., Kilbride, T., Strunk, K. (2024). “Enrollment and Persistence in Postsecondary Teacher Education: Evidence from Michigan” (Submitted)

Wasif, U., Stith, S. (2024). “Gendered Labor Market Responses to SNAP Work Requirements” (Draft Available)

Wasif, U., Santos, R. (2024). “The Impact of SNAP Assistance on High School Completion” (Draft Available)

Wasif, U., Gutierrez, K., Horn, B. (2024). “The Effect of Felony Welfare Ban Opt-outs on Food Security Status of Low-income Households” (Work in Progress)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

The Impact of Pell Grant Aid on Academic Outcomes and Degree Mismatch, **Allied Social Science Associations Meeting, San Antonio, United States of America.** January 2024

Enrollment and Persistence in Postsecondary Teacher Education: Evidence from Michigan, **Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Atlanta, United States of America.** November 2023

The Impact of Pell Grant Aid on Academic Outcomes and Degree Mismatch, **Association for Education Finance and Policy, Denver, United States of America.** March 2022

The Impact of Pell Grant Aid on Academic Outcomes and Degree Mismatch, **Southern Economic Association Meetings, Houston, United States of America.** November 2021

Food Stamp Program Work Requirements: A Case of Effective Policy or Negative Unintended Consequences? **American Society of Hispanic Economists and National Economic Association 6th Annual Conference, Albuquerque, United States of America.** August 2019

Price Elasticity of Enrollment for Undergraduate Admissions at the University of New Mexico, 2010-2018 **Joint Meeting of the Tuition and Fees Committee, and the Long-Term Budget Strategy Committee at the University of New Mexico.** July 2019

The Impact of SNAP Participation on College Enrollment. **Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Regional Student Conference, Irvine, United States of America.** April 2019

Food Stamp Assistance and College Enrollment Among Hispanics. **Population and Public Policy Conference, Albuquerque, United States of America.** February 2019

Food Stamp Assistance and High School Attendance Among Hispanic Youth. **Southern Economic Association Meetings, Washington D.C, United States of America.** November 2018

INVITED TALKS

The Institute for Freedom and Community “Food Policy and Food Politics” Speaker Series. **St. Olaf College, Northfield, United States of America.** October 2023

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, Stata, R, SQL

Other: LATEX, Git, Microsoft Applications