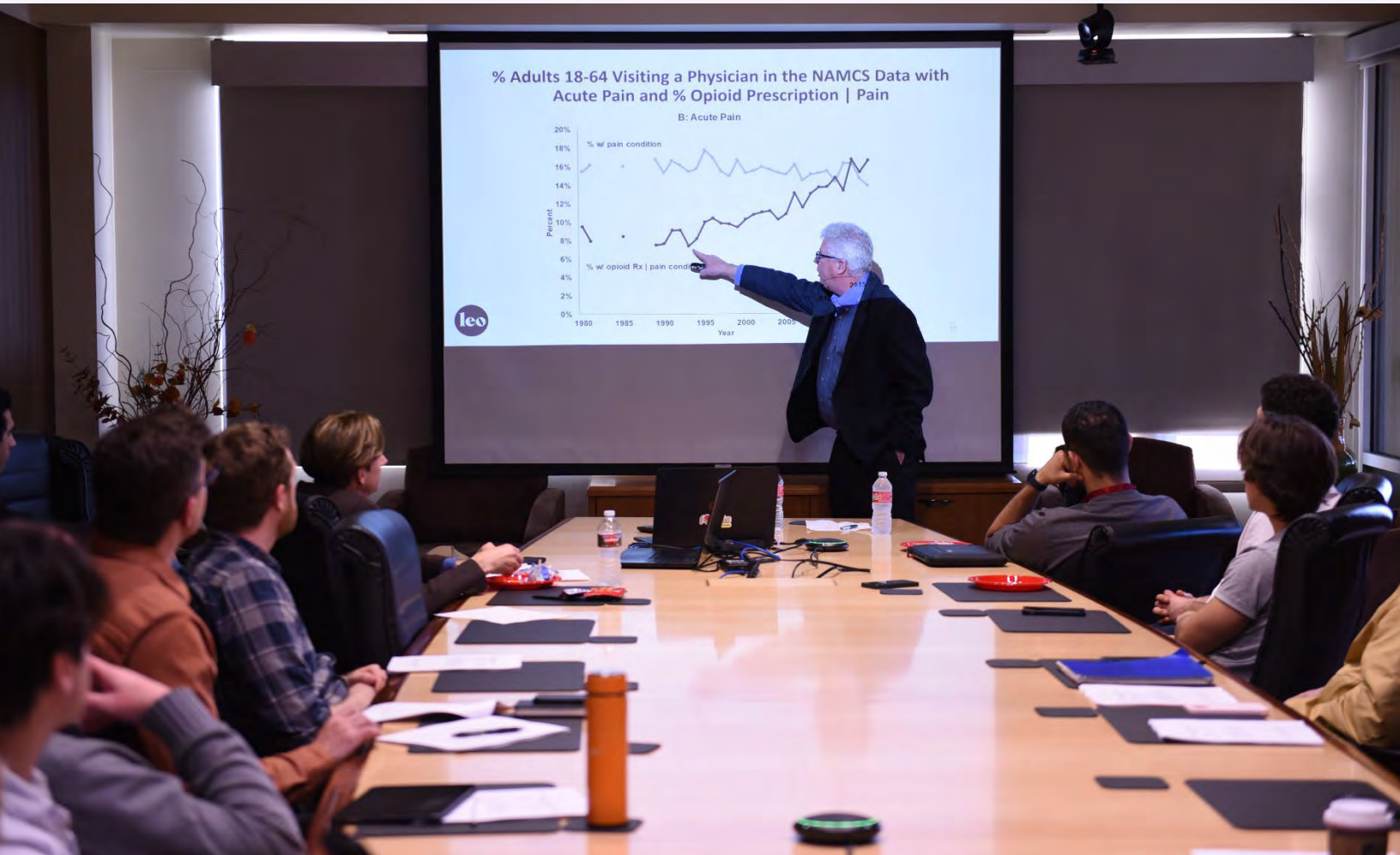


CHEPS

CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS &
POLICY STUDIES



INSIDE:

New CHEPS Research on the Economics of E-Cigarettes,
Minimum Wages, Crime, Substance Abuse, and More

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends of CHEPS,

During the 2023-24 Academic Year, I had the honor of serving as both the Director of the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) and as Chairman of the Economics Department (ECON) at San Diego State University. It can be intimidating to be surrounded by so much brainpower! I have the great good fortune to be surrounded by amazing scholars who answer important economic questions, publish in high-quality peer-reviewed journals, and translate their work to the public and to policymakers to make people's lives better. What could be better than that?



Over the last year, Center affiliates attained publications in leading peer-reviewed journals in economics, public policy, and medicine, including the *Journal of Human Resources*, the *Journal of Development Economics*, the *Journal of Public Economics*, the *Journal of Health Economics*, and *JAMA: Psychiatry*. And a new revise-and-resubmit has arrived from the *Review of Economics and Statistics*. Our work is supported by grants from Global Action to End Smoking, the Charles Koch Foundation, the Social Security

Administration (via the University of Wisconsin), and the James Hervey Johnson Trust.

The Center is excited to welcome two new affiliates for our 2024-25 Academic Year. **Julia Zhu**, a labor economist, is joining us from the Norwegian School of Economics. She received her Ph.D. in Public Policy from Cornell University in 2022 and has an exciting research agenda in the economics of immigration and the economic impact of unions. Julia will join the Department of Economics as a new tenure-track faculty member this fall.

The Center is also welcoming **Tessie Krishna** as our new Postdoctoral Fellow. Tessie joins us from Rutgers University, where she received her Ph.D. in Economics and studied the economics of criminal justice. In her capacity as a postdoc, Tessie will contribute to a myriad of projects on the economics of risky behaviors.

The Center and the Economics Department have placed two of our recent predoc alumni in outstanding Ph.D. programs: **Issac Baumann** is joining the Economics program at the University of Illinois-Chicago and **Cooper Smiley** will be joining the University of Georgia. Our outgoing postdoc, **Caterina Muratori**, will join an economics of gender violence research program at the University of Barcelona. We wish all of them continued success in their professional development.

This year's issue of *CHEPS Magazine* covers many of our achievements: research papers, seminar events, workshops, and conference experiences. Our "CHEPS by the Numbers" provides an accounting of our work:



- 173 Research Seminars have been held by researchers visiting from institutions such as the University of California-Berkeley, Vanderbilt University, Harvard University, Yale University, Dartmouth College, Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of California-Santa Barbara, and the University of Texas-Austin.
- 41 graduate, undergraduate, and postdoctoral students have received funding for research-related activities.
- 18 former M.A. and Undergraduate Economics students were accepted to Ph.D. programs (16) or Predoctoral Programs (2) at such institutions as Cornell University, the University of California-Irvine, the University of Illinois-Chicago, the University of Minnesota, the University of Notre Dame, the University of California-Santa Barbara, Colorado State University, the University of Oregon, Fordham University, and the University of California-Davis.
- 117 peer-reviewed publications were accepted in high-quality economics, medical, and policy journals such as the *Journal of Human Resources*, the *Journal of Public Economics*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, the *Journal of Health Economics*, the *Economic Journal*, *Health Economics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *JAMA: Health Forum*, the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, and the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.
- 30 working papers published by the National Bureau of Economics (NBER)
- 61 academic research conferences and workshops at which CHEPS Affiliates have presented their cutting-edge scholarship.

We could not accomplish our goals without you! Please consider donating to our Center and joining us each Thursday at 3:30 PM PT via Zoom (or in person in Arts & Letters Building 660). And now, enjoy reading about the research accomplishments of our affiliates in the 2024-25 issue of *CHEPS Magazine*!

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Sabia

Joseph J. Sabia
Director, Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies
Chairman, Department of Economics

Inside the Issue

NEW CHEPS RESEARCH	5
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS.....	24
CHEPS APPLIED ECONOMICS WORKSHOP.....	36
CHEPS-ECON 2023-2024 SEMINAR SERIES.....	38
CHEPS IN THE MEDIA	53
CHEPS AFFILIATES AND FELLOWS	54
CHEPS AFFILIATE RESEARCH CONFERENCES.....	66
CHEPS PUBLICATIONS	70
AFFILIATE GRANTS.....	74
CHEPS WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA	75



SDSU

College of Arts and Letters
Center for
Health Economics and
Policy Studies

New CHEPS Research

Flavored E-Cigarettes and Teen Vaping

"The tobacco industry is well aware that flavors appeal to and attract kids, and that young people are uniquely vulnerable to nicotine addiction ... [W]e all must work with even greater urgency to protect our nation's youth from all flavored e-cigarettes, including disposables."

-Truth Initiative (2023)



Electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) are devices in which nicotine and other ingredients, such as flavors, are heated into a vapor and inhaled. Since 2014, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) have surpassed combustible tobacco products as the most commonly used tobacco product among youths in the United States. Tobacco control advocates consistently point to the availability of flavored e-cigarettes as attracting youths to nicotine vaping.

E-cigarettes may come in various flavors, including fruit, candy, mint, and menthol, many of which are popular among teenagers. According to the 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey, 89 percent of youths who reported that they currently vaped nicotine reported using flavored varieties. Among the most common flavors vaped were fruit (63 percent), candy, desserts, or other sweets (35 percent), mint (28 percent), and menthol (20 percent).

The impact of restricting access to flavored ENDS on youth and young adult nicotine vaping is still a matter of conjecture. More than three-quarters of youths and young adults who vape nicotine state they would cease using these products if they were not flavored. However, their revealed behavior is, as yet, untested.

This study, co-authored by **Chad Cotti**, **Chuck Courtemanche**, **Yang Liang**, **Catherine Maclean**, **Erik Nesson**, and **Joe Sabia**, is among the first to explore the impact of ENDS flavor restrictions on youth and young adult ENDS use. This study explores the effects of ENDS flavor restriction policies on youth and young adult ENDS and combustible tobacco product use. Preliminary findings show that while some flavor restrictions may have their intended effects — that is, reducing ENDS use among some youths — there is also evidence of unintended spillover effects of these laws, causing some teens to substitute e-cigarettes with combustible tobacco products. This study was supported by a grant from Global Action to End Smoking (formerly known as the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World). Exploratory research on this project was supported by the National Institutes of Health.

Do E-Cigarette Retail Licensure Laws Work?

E-cigarette licensure laws (ELs) require sellers to obtain a state license to sell e-cigarettes over the counter and often impose penalties and fines up to \$25,000 for violations. These laws are designed to regulate sales, increase compliance with state tobacco regulations, and reduce the supply of e-cigarettes available to consumers, in particular youth.

There are several pathways through which EL adoption could affect youth ENDS use. First, compliance with ELs (through fear of fines, penalties, and loss of the license, and information flows from meeting with regulators during compliance checks) may result in stricter enforcement of e-cigarette sales regulations — including MLPAs — which could reduce youths' access to e-cigarettes.



Additionally, ELs may impose additional compliance (financial) costs on sellers of e-cigarettes and retailers may pass along these costs to consumers in the form of higher prices, thereby reducing sales. Youths may be particularly affected given that they are, on average, more income constrained than adults. Relatedly, licensure requirements may induce sellers to avoid selling e-cigarettes altogether, which may (1) increase local e-cigarette prices through a negative supply shock or (2)

increase time and travel costs to alternative vendors to obtain e-cigarettes.

On the other hand, if the costs of obtaining a license are relatively low or if the EL does not promote better enforcement of e-cigarette law provisions such as the MLPA, EL adoption may have little effect on market prices of or local access to e-cigarettes, resulting in a trivial impact on youth consumption. Moreover, if informal social markets (e.g., friends to whom youths can turn to borrow or bum e-cigarettes) or online markets insulate youths from the effects of local ENDS regulations such as ELs, then ELs may have little effect on youth ENDS use.

A new NBER Working Paper by **Chuck Courtemanche, Catherine Maclean, Yang Liang, Caterina Muratori, and Joe Sabia** is among the first to comprehensively examine the effects of EL adoption on youth and adult tobacco use. Preliminary evidence suggests that while ELs are ineffective at curbing ENDS use for the average teenager, there is some evidence that e-cigarette use among Black teens may decline in response to the adoption of ELs that are accompanied by relatively higher penalties for non-compliance with the law.

This study was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health (via a subcontract from Georgia State University) and Global Action to End Smoking.

Anti-Vaping Laws and Disparities in Tobacco Use

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning (LGBQ) teenagers face unique psychological challenges. Religious critiques of homosexuality, societal discrimination, and family conflict surrounding sexual identity generate substantial stress that contribute to sharp disparities in mental health between LGBQ and heterosexual youth. LGBQ teens are more likely to experience depressive symptomology and engage in suicidal behaviors than their heterosexual counterparts. These adverse psychological consequences contribute to higher rates of risky health behaviors for sexual minorities, perhaps as a coping mechanism for psychological trauma.

Tobacco use among LGBQ-identifying teenagers is substantially higher than among heterosexual youth. In 2021, prior-month use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) among LGBQ youth was substantially higher (22 percent versus 16 percent) and combustible cigarette use higher (6 percent versus 3 percent) than among heterosexual teens.

These disparities may lead to significant tobacco-related disparities in mortality and morbidity later in life, as tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, carrying with it elevated risks of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory health problems. Over 450,000 individuals die each year from combustible tobacco products.

Successful policy interventions to curb disparities in youth tobacco use, especially of combustible products, could generate disproportionate health benefits for LGBQ individuals. A series of new projects co-authored by **Anthony Chuo, Joe Sabia** and their new colleagues will examine the effects of anti-vaping policies on disparities in ENDS and combustible tobacco product use among heterosexual- and LGBQ-identifying youths. These



projects will provide new insights into how tobacco-related public health policy can affect relative health risks among vulnerable, historically marginalized populations.

These studies are supported by a grant from Global Action to End Smoking (formerly known as the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World) and San Diego State University, including the College of Arts & Letters and the Division for Research and Innovation.

E-Cigarette Taxes and Substance Use

Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug, with one in five adults and one in ten youth consuming the product in 2021. At the same time, ENDS use has grown dramatically since the entrance of these products in U.S. tobacco markets in 2006, with 32.1 percent of 12th grade students consuming these products in the past year in 2022.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest survey of U.S. high school students, 10.1 percent of teenagers are dual users of ENDS and marijuana. While both products potentially confer health benefits to adults, public health advocates caution that greater access to, and use of, these products can have serious and negative health implications, particularly for youths and young adults.



Despite frequent calls from public health advocates regarding the health harms associated with early initiation of marijuana use and the risks associated with joint use of ENDS and marijuana, no study has comprehensively examined the spillover effects of anti-vaping policies on illicit drug use.

To fill this critical gap in the literature, a new study by **Dhaval Dave, Catherine Maclean, Yang Liang, Caterina Muratori, and Joe Sabia** (published as a National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper) provides the first evaluation of raising ENDS taxes, one of the most recent and prominent policies adopted by states and local governments to curb vaping, on marijuana and harder drug consumption among youth and adults.

The authors find robust evidence that a one-dollar increase in the ENDS tax leads to a 5.7 to 13.4 percent decline in marijuana use among youth and a 10.3 percent decline among adults 18 years and older. This result is consistent with the hypothesis that e-cigarettes and marijuana are economic complements.



In addition, we note that our finding that marijuana use declines post-ENDS tax appears to be driven by light or experimental marijuana users, and not heavy consumers, and that ENDS taxes do not result in any change in non-marijuana drug use or drug treatment admissions. Our estimates represent average treatment effects over approximately two (2) years. If so-called gateway effects on harder drugs take longer to unfold, future research will be necessary to detect them.

Pretextual Stops, Policing Behavior, & Public Welfare

Pretextual stops, also known as Terry stops, are a common policing strategy employed to detect crime. This strategy involves stopping a driver for minor infractions, such as broken taillights, to investigate other suspected criminal activity. For instance, a police officer may pull over a driver for a minor infraction and ask the driver, “Do you know why you were pulled over?” The police officer asks this question, hoping the driver admits to a more severe crime.



Although the U.S. Supreme Court ruled these traffic stops constitutional in 1996, many policymakers debate whether police officers should conduct these stops. On one hand, the proponents of pretextual stops argue that such stops are essential to find criminals and reduce criminality effectively. However, the opponents of such stops argue that pretextual stops

contribute to racial disparities because police officers may either implicitly or statistically discriminate against racial minorities and may more likely pull these people over for a minor traffic violation. As a result of such debate, many cities and jurisdictions started prohibiting pretextual stops or considering such prohibitions.

On March 1, 2022, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) effectively limited police officers from conducting pretextual stops. This new bill now mandates that police officers stop a driver only when the driver is considered a threat to public safety. According to the new law, when police officers conduct traffic stops, they must verbally explain the reason for pulling over the driver and record their reasoning on their body-worn video cameras. Failure to comply will result in the officer undergoing retraining after the first offense, followed by severe discipline for subsequent violations. Moreover, effective January 1, 2024, a new state Senate bill banned pretextual stops in all of California.

For his job market paper, **Kyutaro Matsuzawa** will leverage this limitation of pretextual stops to investigate whether pretextual stops are effective in terms of enhancing public safety and to what degree they contribute to police discrimination. He will first estimate using a regression discontinuity in time estimator and difference-in-differences using various counterfactuals to document a first-stage effect that this policy did reduce the use of pretextual stops. Next, he will investigate a second-stage effect following the limitation of pretextual stops. This includes exploring what actions police take as an alternative, assessing changes in police search and hit rates, and evaluating potential changes in public safety, such as traffic accidents or crime rates.

Is Diversion a Deterrence to Delinquency? The Impact of Florida's Juvenile Civil Citation Program on Recidivism

A new study by Postdoctoral Fellow **Tessie Krishna** investigates whether the diversion of juveniles from formal processing in the criminal justice system leads to lower recidivism rates using Florida's Juvenile Civil Citation Program. This program, which was rolled out across counties in a staggered fashion, allows law enforcement to divert first-time misdemeanor offenders from the formal juvenile justice system by issuing a Civil Citation (akin to a traffic ticket) instead of arresting them. The program aims to rehabilitate juveniles, keeping their record clear upon successful completion.



Krishna employs a combination of estimation techniques, including standard and dynamic difference-in-differences, ordinary least squares, and instrumental variable estimators. She finds that the Civil Citation Program significantly reduces recidivism among eligible populations, showing a decline of 15-57% over baseline recidivism rates. Juveniles who received citations were between 32-38% less likely to recidivate compared to those who did not. The results

suggest that diversion programs like the Civil Citation Program can effectively reduce juvenile delinquency and prevent deeper involvement with the criminal justice system, provided the decline does not stem from net widening (an increase in the number of people coming in contact with the criminal justice system as the unintentional result of a new practice). The investigation of whether the program led to net-widening is currently in progress.

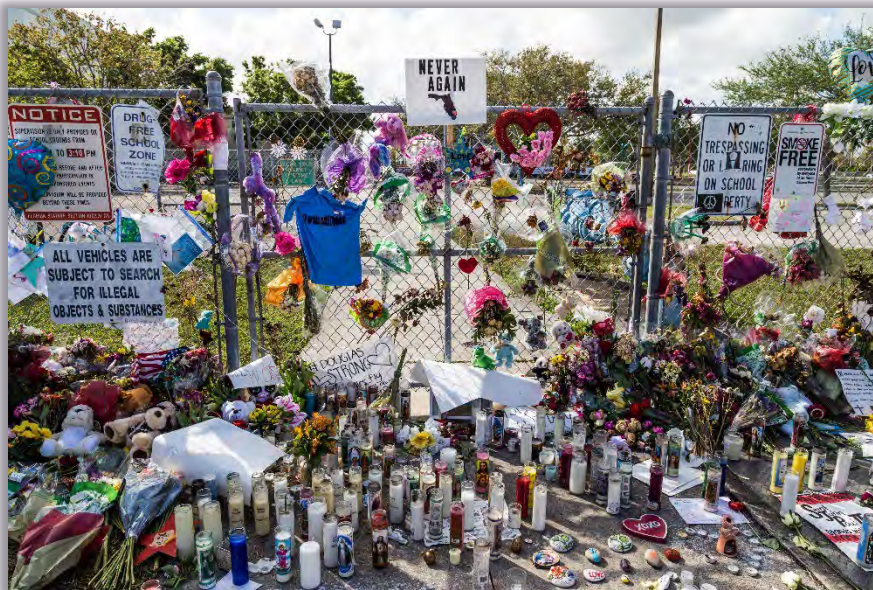
Her paper contributes to the broader literature on the economics of crime and justice reform by quantitatively demonstrating the costs and benefits of diversion programs. It expands on existing studies by using a variety of methodological approaches to address potential biases and varying effects across different contexts. It also suggests areas for future research, particularly in examining long-term outcomes and comparing different types of diversion programs. This research was part of Krishna's dissertation as a Ph.D. student at Rutgers University.



The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence: Exploring the Hidden Costs on Urban Businesses

The prevalence of high-profile shootings in the United States over the past decade has deeply impacted societal consciousness. The escalation of active shooter incidents, resulting in fatalities and injuries, not only imposes direct costs but also triggers widespread fear and behavioral changes. While existing literature explores the indirect costs of mass shootings on various sectors, limited attention has been given to the immediate effects on urban businesses. This paper by **Hao Fe** aims to fill this gap by examining how mass shootings affect consumer visits and expenditures in nearby establishments.

Utilizing a fine-grained longitudinal dataset spanning major U.S. metropolitan areas, they analyze 130 mass shooting incidents between January 2017 and September 2019. The dataset links shooting events to consumer visits and transaction data for venues in close proximity to the incidents. They employ a nonparametric difference-in-differences method to assess the impact of shootings on foot traffic and transaction values, considering both incidents with clear targets and those without. Additionally, they explore the differential responses in areas with varying minority populations.



Their analysis reveals nuanced patterns in consumer behavior following mass shootings. While overall foot traffic shows minimal fluctuations, incidents without clear targets lead to immediate declines in consumer visits, particularly in the vicinity of the shooting site. Conversely, shootings with clear targets initially witness

modest increases in foot traffic, followed by gradual declines. Notably, shootings in high-minority neighborhoods elicit distinct consumer responses, with significant declines in foot traffic observed, especially in incidents lacking clear targets. These findings underscore the importance of understanding the localized impacts of gun violence on the business sector. By providing insights into consumer behavior and economic repercussions, this research can inform policymakers, business owners, and communities in implementing targeted strategies to mitigate adverse effects and support affected businesses post-shooting.

The Role of Labor Unions in Immigrant Integration

In a new study, **Julia Zhu**, **Samuel Dodini**, and **Alexander Willén** examine the role of unions in shaping the labor market gaps between natives and immigrants. They do so by combining rich Norwegian register data with exogenous variation in union membership obtained through national government policies that differentially shifted the cost to workers to join a



union. While union membership significantly improves the wages of natives, its positive effects diminish substantially for Western immigrants and disappear almost entirely for non-Western immigrants. The effect of unions on native wages, and the role of unions in augmenting the native-immigrant wage gap, is nonexistent in competitive labor markets, while it is substantial in markets characterized by a high degree of labor concentration. This implies that unions act as a countervailing force to employer power in imperfect markets and can ameliorate the negative labor market effects of labor market concentration, but only for natives. By surveying native and immigrant union members, they show that the differential labor market effects of unions across nativity status likely operate through the behavior of unions rather than through differences in how natives and immigrants utilize their unions.

Gender Prescribed Occupations and the Wage Gap

Gender differences in occupation and industry, i.e., horizontal occupational segregation, have been widely found to contribute to gender wage differences and their relative contribution has been rising over time. Blau and Kahn, in their 2017 article, report that in 1980, gender gaps in occupation and industry together accounted for 20 percent of the gender pay gap, while by 2011, both factors explained more than half of the gender wage gap, constituting the largest measured factors that account for male-female differences in wages.



The seminal work by Akerlof and Kranton (2000) explains segregation by applying their identity economic theory to gender. Akerlof and Kranton (2000) define identity as one's sense of self or one's sense of belonging to a social category that comes packaged with a view about how people in that category should behave. In their model, one's identity directly enters the utility function and deviating from the prescribed behavior associated with one's social category is costly. The same applies

to gender identity, which comes packaged with slow-moving gender norms. These gender norms also state what is the “appropriate” work for men and women, thus contributing to occupational segregation. Women (men) working in “masculine (feminine)” occupations may incur a disutility as their actions conflict with the behavioral prescription for that gender category.



The literature has not yet provided a clear explanation of why female occupations have been found to pay less than male occupations with similarly measured characteristics, and feminization of a given occupation is accompanied by decreasing salaries. **Matteo Broso, Andrea Gallice, and Caterina Muratori** try to fill this gap in the literature by building a game theory model of occupational segregation

by gender based on Akerlof and Kranton’s (2000) identity theory. One’s gender identity interacts with one’s innate preferences and talent in defining future career paths. In their model, men and women have a different likelihood of breaking the social norm and entering an occupation in conflict with the behavioral prescription for their gender category. This creates different levels of sorting into male and female occupations, generating horizontal segregation in the workplace and thus ultimately contributing to the gender wage gap.

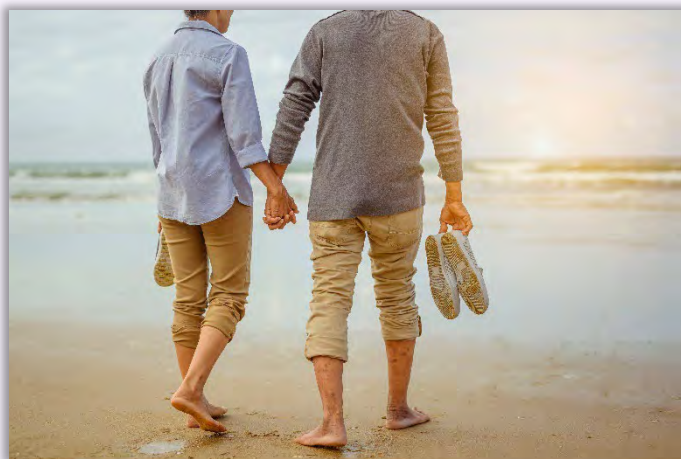


Disparities in Disabilities and Retirement Take-Up Among Lesbian, Gay, & Bisexual (LGB) Households

A new research proposal, authored by **Dhaval Dave**, **Gokhan Kumpas**, and **Joe Sabia**, aims to examine trajectories in take-up of retirement and disability benefits by sexual minorities and how benefit receipt patterns were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Social Security benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), play a vital role in supporting individuals who face economic insecurity and disabilities. Despite their importance, the uptake and accessibility of these programs among LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) individuals remain underexplored.



LGBTQ+ individuals encounter unique socio-economic challenges, and face heightened health disparities, including around Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), potentially influencing their engagement with and benefits from SSI and SSDI. This project aims to (1) document patterns and disparities in SSI and SSDI benefit receipt among LGB individuals (proxied by likely same-sex couples), especially those with disabilities, and compare these to non-LGB populations (opposite-sex couples), (2) explore how unemployment, health, and social mobility shocks from the COVID-19 pandemic affected LGB persons differentially relative to non-LGB couples, with respect to SSI and SSDI take-up, and (3) evaluate how retirement decisions (and OASI take-up) of LGB households were differentially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



By analyzing these important questions, this research project seeks to comprehensively document the disparities in access to SSI and SSDI benefits among LGBTQ individuals, with particular attention to how these disparities were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Findings will be critical for documenting barriers to program participation for LGB households, documenting how the COVID-19 pandemic differentially affected them, and developing policy strategies that meet the needs of sexual minorities.

The Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic Shocks on OASI, SSI, and SSDI Benefit Receipt

Ongoing research by **Kyutaro Matsuzawa**, **Dhaval Dave**, and **Joe Sabia** examines how the COVID-19 pandemic affected retirement decisions and participation in disability benefits programs. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic caused large shocks to individuals' social mobility, economic opportunities, family circumstances, and access to health care.



Disparities in the health and labor market effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been well-documented, with poorer communities and historically marginalized racial/ethnic groups disproportionately adversely affected relative to their more advantaged counterparts. This project will explore how local COVID-19 pandemic shocks affected take-up of Social Security benefits — including take-up of retirement/survivor's benefits (OASI) and supplemental security income (SSI) and disability insurance (SSDI) benefits — designed to reduce economic insecurity among vulnerable individuals. Beyond extrapolated time series analyses, there is virtually no evidence on this research question. The project will also explore whether pandemic-era shocks (related to employment, wealth, health, social mobility, and childcare) had disparate impacts on take-up among racial/ethnic minorities and women.

The COVID-19 pandemic generated large shocks that may have influenced retirement decisions and take-up of SS retirement benefits and SS(D)I benefits, including: (1) unemployment shocks that reduced employment opportunities, particularly in those sectors that were deemed “non-essential,” (2) wealth shocks, through changes in housing prices and the value of private retirement portfolios, (3) mental and physical health shocks: (i) direct shocks caused by the pandemic itself (i.e., illness and mortality) and (ii) indirect shocks caused by stresses placed on the health care system due to COVID-19 hospitalization/mortality shocks (i.e., reductions in in-person physical and mental health care), (4) increases in shocks to stay-at-home behavior — driven by policy (i.e., state and local stay-at-home orders and emergency decrees) as well as private responses to fear/risk of contagion — that affected psychological health, household composition/need, peer interactions, time allocation, and labor-leisure tradeoff, and (5) closing of schools and childcare centers, which increased the demand for childcare, including among family members and adult caregivers of elderly parents, with potentially important spillovers to labor supply decisions and take-up of benefits for older adults and vulnerable populations. This project, funded by the University of Wisconsin (via grant funding received by the Social Security Administration), explores the differential impacts of each of these channels.

Paid Sick Leave Policies and SSI/SSDI Participation Among Children & Adults with Disabilities

Social security is a critical source of income for older adults, people with disabilities, and communities of color. As noted in the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) 2023 Equity Action Plan, the complexities of the application process may prevent eligible individuals from applying for benefits. Barriers such as taking time off from work to complete paperwork and other application steps, lacking a caregiver with sufficient time to support the application process, and lacking transportation to an SSA field office during business hours disproportionately impact underserved communities.

While about 77% of US private sector workers have access to paid sick leave (PSL), only 38% of workers in the lowest wage decile have these benefits. PSL coverage rates are also lower among women and underserved racial and ethnic groups. There is no federal minimum PSL requirement, but 15 states and Washington, D.C. have implemented PSL mandates in recent years.



These mandates have been shown to increase the percentage of workers with PSL coverage and to increase healthcare utilization. PSL mandates may benefit SSI/SSDI applicants who are currently working despite having a work-limiting disability or those who have familial caregivers with work responsibilities, but there is limited evidence on policy impacts among these groups.

The primary objective of a new project proposal by **Brandy Lipton** and **Joe Sabia** is to use quasi-experimental research methods to examine the impacts of state-level PSL mandates on SSI/SSDI participation among children and adults with disabilities. PSL mandates may increase SSI/SSDI applications by allowing time during business hours for an applicant or an applicant’s caregiver (e.g., parent) to complete paperwork, visit a provider for a disability determination, or visit an SSA field office for application assistance. It is also plausible that PSL mandates may reduce SSI/SSDI participation among some adults who were previously unemployed or underemployed but are able to participate in the labor market with the enhanced flexibility of a PSL policy. The project will investigate possible mechanisms, including PSL use, provider visits, and employment among adults with disabilities and parents caring for children with disabilities. The authors will examine results by race and ethnicity, sex, and the generosity of state Medicaid coverage to assess whether PSL mandates can serve as a policy lever to reduce disparities.

The Effect of Medical Care Access on Take-Up of SSI and SSDI: New Evidence from Hospital Closures



Residents of rural areas report a higher disability rate compared to urban populations, 14.7% versus 12.6%, according to 2021 Census data. This disparity might be partly due to the limited access to healthcare in rural regions, where residents typically travel 17 minutes to receive medical services, compared to 10.4 minutes in urban

areas. The recent spike in rural hospital closures, with over 100 (~ 4% of) rural hospital facilities shutting down between 2010 and 2021, may exacerbate rural-urban disparities in access to health care. Moreover, there is concern that these trends have accelerated following the COVID-19 pandemic (Melnick et al., 2023).

The primary objective of a new project proposal by **Yang Liang, Ling Li, and Joe Sabia** is to explore the impact of rural hospital closures (or, less often, openings) on the take-up of SSDI and SSI benefits. Why might one expect a causal link? Longer travel distances to hospitals may adversely affect the health outcomes of those residing in rural counties and may increase the risk of health problems evolving into chronic disabilities. Moreover, the lack of access to adequate medical care may result in adverse employment effects that affect take-up of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.



While a growing literature has explored how expansions in access to health insurance, such as Medicaid, have affected SSDI and SSI applications, there is less evidence on how exogenous shocks to medical care access (through hospital care) have affected the well-being among vulnerable rural populations. And there is no evidence of which we are aware that has explored disparities in the effects of hospital closures on SSDI/SSI take-up among African American versus White and rural versus

urban individuals. This project will make important contributions along these margins.

The Impact of Medicaid Coverage of Routine Vision Services on Access to Eye Care and Sight Among Low-Income Medicare Enrollees, 2002-2019

Vision problems are prevalent among older adults, with 92% of Medicare enrollees ages 65 and older using vision correction and 39% of Medicare enrollees who use vision correction reporting trouble seeing even with eyeglasses. Between 20 and 50% of older adults have some degree of undetected vision loss, with the majority having treatable conditions, including uncorrected refractive error and cataracts—indeed, all people’s vision will degrade if they live long enough. Despite the frequency of vision problems at older ages, many Medicare enrollees go without regular vision care. For example, one study found that 42% of Medicare enrollees who reported trouble seeing did not have an eye exam in the past year. Vision impairment is associated with worsening morbidity and mortality and therefore lack of access to routine vision care may have consequences for health and well-being.

Fee-for-service Medicare covers medically necessary treatments for eye disease, but generally does not cover routine eye exams or glasses for refraction. Some low-income Medicare enrollees have comprehensive vision coverage if they qualify for full Medicaid benefits (“dual eligibles”) and reside in a state with a Medicaid program that includes these benefits. Previous research has shown that Medicaid vision benefits (i.e., coverage of routine exams and glasses) increase recent eye exams, improve distance vision, and alleviate functional limitations among Medicaid-enrolled adults under age 65 who are not enrolled in Medicare. However, there is little evidence of the effectiveness of these policies among dual eligibles, a policy-relevant population given their disproportionate share of health care spending and their lack of private resources to finance vision services.



In this paper, **Brandy Lipton** and colleagues examine the impacts of Medicaid coverage of self-reported routine vision services among dual eligibles using 2002-2019 data from the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS). These data are paired with data on Medicaid vision policies that were obtained from a comprehensive effort to characterize the historical evolution of Medicaid vision benefits. They estimate two-way-fixed-effects models and two-stage

difference-in-differences models that account for variation in treatment timing. All models control for demographic characteristics and state and year indicators. The main outcomes of interest include: past-year eye exams, current use of eyeglasses, and self-reported trouble seeing (any, a lot). They examine impacts overall and by age (under vs. over 65), sex, race and ethnicity, and diabetes diagnosis.

Their two-stage difference-in-differences findings indicate that Medicaid vision benefits are associated with a significant 5.1 percentage point increase in past-year eye exams, or an 11% increase relative to the sample average rate (47%). They do not estimate significant associations for the other outcomes in our overall sample. In subgroup analyses, we estimate a larger increase in past-year eye exams among duals under age 65 (9.2 percentage points) than among those over age 65 (3.0 percentage points), and they also estimate a significant reduction in a lot of trouble seeing that is only significant among duals under age 65 (1.9 percentage point decline).

They find some evidence of larger impacts on past-year eye exams and trouble seeing among non-Hispanic Black adults than non-Hispanic White adults, and among adults without diagnosed diabetes than those with diabetes (eye exams only). Estimates from two-way-fixed effects models are generally consistent with two-stage-difference-in-differences estimates.



They do not find evidence of significant pre-trends for any of the outcomes in event study models. There is some evidence of attenuation in impacts on past-year eye exams when policies were in place for five or more years. There was also some evidence of a growing impact on the current use of eyeglasses (a

stock measure) over the course of the post-implementation period.

The authors conduct several additional sensitivity analyses including omitting demographic controls, including a variety of time-varying state controls, limiting the sample period to 2002-2013, and including survey years 2020 and 2021. Results were generally consistent across these models.

Uncorrected refractive error is the leading cause of vision impairment. Their findings indicate that Medicaid vision benefits increase eye exams among dual eligibles, which may improve diagnosis and treatment of refractive error and other age-related eye conditions. However, impacts among duals over age 65 were more modest – a finding deserving of further attention. In general, our results have important implications for state Medicaid programs and for recent policy proposals to expand Medicare benefits to include comprehensive vision care.

In-Person Schooling and Teenage Violence

A new working paper co-authored by **Benjamin Hansen, Kyutaro Matsuzawa, and Joe Sabia** investigates the impact of in-person schooling on juvenile violence. In-person schooling may reduce juvenile violence through an “incapacitation” effect, whereby time spent in academic and extracurricular activities crowds out less purposeful time that may lead to violence. Juvenile violence may also fall in response to in-person schooling due to increases in human capital acquisition and increased monitoring by school staff and faculty. On the other hand, juvenile violence may rise in response to in-person schooling if there is a “concentration” effect whereby increases in (negative) peer interactions generate violence.

The authors use data from various national sources, including the Uniform Crime Reports, the National Incident-Based Reporting System, the National Crime Victimization Survey, and the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System. The latter two datasets allow the authors to disentangle reporting effects from violent behavior effects. The study employs a range of identification strategies, including (1) national seasonal trends analysis, (2) leveraging pre-pandemic differences in school start and end dates, and (3) county-level variation in school calendars during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors also make clever use of anonymized smartphone data as a proxy for in-person schooling.



The authors find that in-person elementary and secondary (K-12) schooling is associated with a 28 percent increase in juvenile violence. The effects are the largest for simple and aggravated assaults. In contrast, there is no evidence that in-person K-12 schooling affects violent crime among young adults aged 19-24 or property crime among juveniles. Juvenile violent crime effects are more pronounced in larger schools and jurisdictions with weaker anti-bullying policies, suggesting concentration effects and a peer quality channel. Back-of-the-envelope estimates suggest that in-person schooling generates approximately \$233 million in monthly violent crime costs compared to closed K-12 schools.

Does Robotics Diffusion Cause Crime? Evidence from Industry-Specific Technological Shocks



Automation and artificial intelligence advancements have resulted in significant productivity gains for society, and in the past two decades since 2000, there has been a trend of increasing use of robots in manufacturing. Unlike their human labor counterparts, robots are more accurate, precise, and do not get tired. Motivated by the potential consequences of substituting laborers with robots — such as decreased employment and earnings, heightened incentives for illegal income, and the possibility of disgruntled workers resorting to criminal activities — **Mark Anderson, Yang Liang, and Joe Sabia** estimate the impact of robotics expansions on adult crime rates in the United States.

The researchers examine the period 1993-2010, obtain arrest data from the 1993-2010 Uniform Crime Report (UCR), and obtain industry-by-year data on European and American robots from the International Federation of Robots (IFR). The authors use

a natural experiment (IV) to identify the causal effect of U.S. robotics expansion on arrests: the experiment relies on the conditional exogeneity of industry-specific robotics rollout in the European Union interacted with U.S. county-level pre-treatment industrial composition.

Reduced form two-way-fixed effects estimates show that EU robotics penetration is associated with an increase in property crime arrests, consistent with the hypothesis that robotics-induced employment losses (particularly in manufacturing) increase the payoff from illicit activities, particularly for income-generating purposes. Event-study analyses are consistent with the parallel trends assumption holding.

Next, turning to IV estimates, the study's principal finding shows that one-robot-per-thousand-worker increase is associated with a 4%-6% increase in property crime arrests, but no change in violent crime arrests. These results are consistent with the reduced form event study results described above. The magnitude of this property crime effect is consistent with arrest elasticities with respect to employment and wages (reported in the literature) and with employment and wage elasticities with respect to U.S. robotics expansions, as reported by Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020). The authors conclude that while there are likely longer-run productive efficiency gains of robotics, there are shorter-run external costs borne by communities whose workers are disemployed by robots.

Aim High: The Impacts of Marijuana Legalization on Air Force Recruitment, Disciplinary Actions, and Drug Use

The labor market impacts of marijuana legalization are understudied. This study by **Zach Fone** leverages a unique setting with a large employer (Department of the Air Force) that has a zero-tolerance drug use policy for its employees (service members). In this setting, there is growing concern that the United States military is not able to achieve its recruitment goals. The primary reason for the recruitment shortfalls is the rising share of Americans who are ineligible for military service, with drug use being one of the purported drivers. The growth in marijuana legalization across states may affect military recruitment, disciplinary actions among service members, and drug use among service members.



This study utilizes a difference-in-differences approach and finds that RMLs have negligible impacts on recruits per capita, recruit quality, and personnel behavior that results in disciplinary action among Air Force active-duty enlisted members. Analyzing drug testing data, we find evidence of increases in positive tests, driven by positive tests for marijuana,

among 17-to-24-year-old male active-duty members. Overall, marijuana legalization has not hampered recruiting efforts or maintaining discipline among enlisted Air Force members, despite increased positive drug tests for certain populations.

Shift Structure and Cognitive Depletion: Evidence from Police Officers

Decision-making, risk-taking, and situational awareness are all important factors for effective and equitable policing. However, these factors can also be affected by fatigue, overwork, and cognitive stress, which can accumulate as police officers continue to work. This paper, from **Toshio Ferrazares**, explores these mechanisms by studying how working consecutive days affects police officer outcomes such as arrests, investigatory stops, and use-of-force, using data from the Chicago Police Department. To deal with the potential selection of working days, he leverages arbitrarily-assigned fixed schedules as well as a two-way fixed effects design that uses both within-officer and within-assignment variation. He finds that, after initially increasing, officers make fewer arrests and conduct fewer stops as they work more days. These declines in activity are driven by reductions towards the end of an officer's shift. Fatigue, inexperience, and cognitive stress all contribute as mechanisms for a reduction in activity, with several alternative mechanisms explored. Despite this decline in arrests, officers file more use-of-force reports after working many consecutive days.

The California Effect: Challenges of Identifying Social Policy Impacts During an Era of Social Change



This paper, from **Jake Penglase**, **Lauren Hoehn-Velasco**, **Michael Pesko**, and **Hasan Shahid**, reexamines the role of social policy in the doubling of divorce rates in the United States. They demonstrate that the short-run rise in divorce rates formerly attributed to the introduction of unilateral divorce laws solely depends on the state of California. The sensitivity of the results to California's inclusion, by itself, is not

concerning. However, no fewer than four other policies were adopted concurrently with unilateral divorce legislation in California that may have impacted divorce rates, including the shortening of mandatory wait periods in obtaining a divorce, no-fault divorce, no-fault property reforms, and legalized abortion. When the authors examine the effects of these alternative social policies individually, they find, for example, that legal abortion leads to a clear and immediate rise in divorce rates. However, legal abortion's impact also hinges on California and may be contaminated by concurrently adopted policies. They demonstrate that California's influence extends to the broader unilateral divorce literature. They conclude by describing best practices to confront the challenges of simultaneous policy adoption, which is pervasive in the policy analysis literature.

Peer-Reviewed Article Highlights

Minimum Wages and Poverty

(Revise and Resubmit, *Review of Economics and Statistics*)

During the 87 years since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that state minimum wage laws were constitutional, prominent advocates of minimum wage increases — from Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt through Joseph R. Biden — have consistently touted their potential to reduce poverty. More recently, poverty reduction has been a stated goal of the *Raise the Wage Act of 2023*, which would more than double the Federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$17 per hour.

There are several channels through which minimum wage increases could reduce poverty. If minimum wage increases raise hourly wages paid to poor workers — without causing adverse labor demand effects — such hikes could raise family incomes and lift poor workers out of poverty. In addition, if low-skilled labor markets are monopsonistic or characterized by search frictions, minimum wage increases could, in theory, increase employment and family income. Moreover, if minimum wage hikes boost spending by low-skilled workers, who typically have a relatively higher marginal propensity to consume than firm owners from whom income is redistributed, resultant economic growth could raise wages and employment, thereby reducing poverty.

On the other hand, if low-skilled labor markets are competitive, minimum wage increases could reduce employment and work hours among low-skilled workers. If employment losses are felt by poor and near-poor workers, family incomes could fall, thereby plunging some low-skilled workers into (deeper) poverty.



While there is significant disagreement among labor economists over the presence and magnitude of employment effects of U.S. minimum wage increases, there has been a consensus over many decades that minimum wage increases did little to reduce poverty. This consensus is explained not only by adverse employment effects of the minimum wage, but also because of low levels of low wage-labor supply among

individuals living in poor families. However, a highly cited study by Dube (2019) reaches a different conclusion.

Using data from the March 1984-2013 Current Population Surveys (corresponding to calendar years 1983-2012) and a difference-in-differences approach, Dube (2019) estimates longer-run (three or more years) poverty elasticities with respect to the minimum wage of

-0.2 to -0.5 for non-elderly individuals and elasticities for low-skilled demographic groups that are occasionally larger in absolute magnitude.

A new study by **Richard V. Burkhauser, Drew McNichols, and Joe Sabia** (currently at the revise-and-resubmit stage at *The Review of Economics and Statistics*) revisits the work of Dube (2019). After replicating his estimates, they show that Dube's results are fragile and sensitive to two specification choices: (1) the inclusion of a control for the state unemployment rate, which could capture employment effects of the minimum wage, and (2)



restricting treatment states' counterfactuals to states within the same census division ("close controls"), even when geographically proximate states are rejected as more observably similar using a synthetic control approach. When they use alternate macroeconomic controls or allow states outside of a treatment state's census division to serve as potential counterfactuals in a synthetic control framework, they find no evidence of poverty-reducing effects of the minimum wage over the 1983-2012 period.



Moreover, when they extend the sample period to 1983-2019, the authors find little support for the hypothesis that minimum wage increases reduce poverty. Estimated elasticities less than -0.131 for non-elderly individuals (and less than -0.129 for all persons) lie outside of their 95% confidence interval, which would rule out the central long-run estimates reported by Dube (2019). Their preferred estimate shows that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage is associated with a

(statistically insignificant) 0.17 percent increase in the probability of poverty among all persons. The authors conclude that minimum wage increases continue to be an ineffective policy strategy for alleviating poverty.

Fighting Poverty: The Minimum Wage Versus In-Work Benefits

(Forthcoming, *EE Handbook on Labour Markets in Transition*, Chapter 26)

A new book chapter co-authored by **Richard V. Burkhauser**, **Kevin Corinth**, and **Joe Sabia** reviews existing empirical evidence on the relative effectiveness of the minimum wage as compared to “in-work benefit” policies (such as the Earned Income Tax Credit in the U.S.) in reducing poverty in OECD nations. The authors conclude that increasing the



minimum wage is both an ineffective and inefficient policy tool to curb poverty. The reasons for this are twofold: (1) few minimum wage workers reside in poor households, and (2) the authors conclude that “the preponderance of the evidence across OECD countries suggests that minimum wage increases do cause some adverse employment effects, including for lower-skilled individuals residing in poor and near-poor households.” With regard to this second explanation, this means that minimum wage increases are more likely to redistribute family income (and poverty) among poor and near-poor families rather than to reduce net poverty.

In sharp contrast, the authors state that work-based public subsidies can be effective in reducing poverty. Burkhauser, Corinth, and Sabia offer the following policy conclusion:



“Government subsidies to people who work, through tax credits or transfers, can be appropriately targeted to households with low incomes and lift them above the poverty line. These policies have the additional benefit of avoiding involuntary disemployment. Tax and transfer policies that are conditioned on work also have the advantage of increasing labor supply, which can offset work disincentives inherent in means-tested benefits... We conclude

that tax and transfer policies linked to employment, along with pro-growth policies that increase the demand for workers and enhanced investments in human capital (i.e., education, job training), can increase the household incomes of workers without the anti-employment effects of minimum wage increases.”

Leadership & Gender Composition in Top Positions: Evidence from the Brazilian Public Sector

(Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Human Resources*)

Appropriate allocation of talent is important for firm creation and economic growth. In many countries, the public sector absorbs a large share of the most talent due to its size and high public sector premium, especially among high skilled occupations. Moreover, the most talented often spend years pursuing those chances, and once on the job their human capital skills might be underutilized. While this allocation will strengthen state capability, it may crowd out other important economic activity. In this paper, **Thiago de Lucena** uses a regression discontinuity design on a novel data set of a large public service entry exam with more than 1.5 million applicants; he finds that being approved on a public sector entry exam reduces the probability of firm creation in subsequent years by 33 percent. To shed light on the extent which employees are not being pushed to their full potential, he examines attendance around the opening of a business. He shows business openings have limited effects on absenteeism of public sector workers who are firm owners.



The Effect of Exports on Workplace Safety and Health

(Forthcoming, *Review of International Economics*)



Trade expansion profoundly impacted the US labor market over the past two decades, particularly on employment and wages. However, the effects on worker safety and health are less clear. Workplace injuries remain widespread; according to the National Safety Council, approximately 2.8 million workplace injuries occur annually in the US, leading to costs of \$206 billion from lost wages, productivity losses, medical expenses, and administrative costs. Notably, manufacturing workers consistently face injury rates higher than the national average. The study by **Yang Liang** and **Ling Li** investigates how exports influence worker safety and health in the US. The findings suggest a \$1,000 increase in exports per worker correlates with a significant 0.7% reduction in workplace injury rates. This reduction translates to approximately 55,000 fewer injuries annually among manufacturing workers. This improvement in safety may be attributed to increased investment in advanced equipment and enhanced compliance with safety regulations.

Abortion Access and Violence Against Women

(Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Human Resources*)

Between 1973, when the US Supreme Court established a constitutional right to abortion in its *Roe v. Wade* decision, and 2022, when the court overturned this ruling in its *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision, a dozen states have enacted various restrictions on the procedure. An estimated 1,381 abortion restrictions have been put in place, with 46 percent of them enacted in the last decade alone. Over time, the nature of restrictions has tended to shift from emphasizing demand-side regulations and moving toward emphasizing supply-side regulations that target providers. Examples of these measures include requiring doctors to have hospital admitting privileges, mandating that abortion facilities have transfer agreements with local hospitals, and stipulating that abortion facilities meet certain building requirements. Such supply-side restrictions have been called Targeted Regulations of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws.

In 2013, Texas passed House Bill 2 (HB2), a TRAP law that led nearly half of the state's abortion clinics to close within a year. These closures meant that the distance to an abortion clinic grew to varying degrees for women in different municipalities in the state.



The study by **Caterina Muratori**, currently at the revise-and-resubmit stage at the *Journal of Human Resources* - is the first study to evaluate the impact of abortion clinic closures following the implementation of Texas HB 2 on violence against women of reproductive age. Using a difference-in-differences approach and data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System, she finds that increasing the distance to

abortion clinics had sizable and nonlinear effects on violence against women. A 25-mile increase in the distance to the nearest clinic increases the number of reported violent offenses against women by up to 1.9 percent. The relationship is nonlinear, meaning that the effect decreases as the initial distance from a clinic rises. The effect is up to a quarter larger for the subsample of Hispanic women and more than double for Black women with respect to the effect for the entire population, suggesting that women who are most disadvantaged suffer the most from restrictions to abortion access. Moreover, the evidence from this study suggests that clinic closures also negatively affect children living in the abusive household.

Sex, Drugs, and Bullying

(Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Population Economics*)

Federal policymakers, public health researchers, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have argued for a broad public health approach to reduce bullying in schools. This recommendation is owed, in part, to a wide epidemiological literature that has concluded “probable evidence” of a causal relationship between bullying victimization and a wide set of risky health behaviors. However, the empirical methods used in these studies have made it difficult to disentangle the causal effect of bullying victimization from non-random targeting of victims based on difficult-to-measure traits associated with risky health behaviors.

A new study by **Caterina Muratori** and **Joe Sabia** (currently at the revise and resubmit stage at the *Journal of Population Economics*) circumvents these empirical challenges by exploiting geographic and temporal variation in the adoption of state ABLs to identify their effect on risky health behaviors. The authors find that while ABLs — particularly more comprehensive statutes — are effective at reducing bullying victimization, they do little to reduce a wide set of risky health behaviors for the average U.S. high school student. The estimated relationships between state ABLs and risky health behaviors are, in the main, economically small and are uniformly statistically indistinguishable from zero at conventional levels.

When the authors turn to demographic subgroups for LGBTQ-identifying teenagers, we find that ABL-adoption is associated with a significant (and large) reduction in binge drinking. These findings are consistent with prior evidence that LGBTQ students experienced the largest psychological health gains from ABLs and appear to have reduced engagement in some risky health behaviors as a coping mechanism.



In the main, the results of this study suggest that the margin of bullying victimization reduced by ABLs likely generates, at most, only small declines in youth risky behaviors for the average teenager. However, it is important to put our null findings on risky behaviors (for the average teen) in the context of the broader literature on the impacts of

ABLs, including a reduction in suicidal behaviors and depression, as well as improvements in school safety. Rather, the authors contextualize their (largely) null findings as more of a splash of “cold water” on assertions by public health advocates that typical policy strategies to fight bullying would generate a broad-based reduction in risky health behaviors for the average teenager.

The War on Terrorism and Veteran Opioid Abuse

(Forthcoming, *Health Economics*)



Following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, President George W. Bush launched the War on Terrorism, which saw 5.4 million deployments of nearly 2.8 million U.S. servicemembers to Iraq and Afghanistan. Resul Cesur, David Bradford, and Joe Sabia explore whether these war deployments created an opioid epidemic

among veterans.

War deployments could have increased the risk of opioid abuse among veterans for several reasons. First, war injury-induced chronic pain among post-9/11 veterans led to a sharp increase in opioid prescribing — often with lax monitoring by Veterans Health Administration (VHA) providers — which may have increased dependence and abuse. Moreover, combat-induced psychological trauma, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), may exacerbate the risk of opioid abuse. In addition, the growth of veterans' disability compensation benefits may have increased labor market idleness among veterans, which could be an important contributing factor to opioid abuse. Finally, on the supply side, exposure to cheap opium during deployments to Afghanistan may have increased the risk of veteran opioid dependence.

The U.S. Department of Defense has speculated that “[opioid abuse] may relate to deployment effects, such as injuries, combat exposure, and mental health conditions.” This study is the first in economics literature to explore the causal impact of post-9/11 war deployments on opioid abuse among servicemembers.

Resul Cesur, Joe Sabia, and David Bradford exploit a quasi-experiment in the combat assignments of active-duty U.S. military service members to isolate the causal impact of war service. The results provide consistent evidence that combat assignment substantially increases the risks of prescription painkiller abuse and illicit heroin use. This effect is driven by those exposed to enemy firefights during combat deployments. The magnitudes imply lower-bound combat exposure-induced healthcare costs to the Department of Veterans Affairs of \$1.07 billion per year to treat prescription opioid abuse and \$485 million per year to treat heroin use. Descriptive evidence suggests that combat-related physical injuries, which may have resulted in initially legitimate opioid prescriptions, as well as war-related psychological trauma, are the primary channels at work.

Legalization of Recreational Marijuana and Teen Use

(Published in *JAMA: Psychiatry*)



As public support for the legalization of recreational marijuana grows, opponents remain concerned that legalization will encourage youth marijuana use through spillovers to the illicit market. This is of major public health concern given that youth marijuana use has been linked to poorer mental health (including suicidal behavior), lower rates of cognition, and poorer educational attainment.

In a recent study published in *JAMA: Psychiatry*, **D. Mark Anderson, Yang Liang, Hao Fe,** and **Joe Sabia** use data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS) and a new difference-in-differences estimator (developed by Sun and Abraham 2021) to provide novel estimates of the association between recreational marijuana laws (RMLs) and youth marijuana use. The authors uncover no evidence that RMLs encourage youth marijuana use. This result is consistent with the hypothesis that the creation of new, licit markets for marijuana results in greater enforcement of the minimum legal purchasing age for marijuana.

Marijuana Access and Workplace Injuries

(Published in *JAMA: Health Forum*)

Since 2012, 24 states and D.C. have legalized the possession and sale of small quantities of marijuana for recreational purposes. A new study by **Li Ling, Yang Liang, Joe Sabia,** and **Dhaval Dave**, published in *JAMA: Health Forum*, explores the impact of recreational marijuana law (RML) adoption on workplace injuries among younger workers aged 20-34. On the one hand, of RML-induced increases in marijuana use diminishes workers' cognitive functioning or acts as a gateway to harder drugs, RMLs could increase workplace injuries. On the other hand, marijuana induces substitution away from alcohol or opioids or reduces pain among workers RMLs may lead to fewer workplace injuries.



The authors' regression analyses finds that the adoption of an RML where recreational marijuana sales were legal led to a 10% increase in workplace injuries among 20-34-year-olds. This finding is consistent with the hypothesis that recreational marijuana impedes cognitive function and workplace care among younger workers. This differs from older workers, for whom prior research has uncovered a decline in workers' compensation benefit receipt and non-traumatic injuries following RML adoption. Thus, the authors conclude that "responses [to RMLs] could be heterogeneous across differently-aged workers."

Can Recreational Marijuana Spur Employment Opportunities?

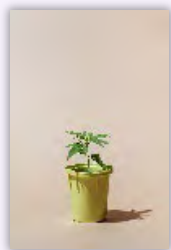
(Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Population Economics*)

Recreational marijuana laws (RMLs) legalize the possession, sale, and consumption of small quantities of marijuana for recreational purposes for those ages 21-and-older. Since 2012, 23 states and the District of Columbia have adopted RMLs. While 68 percent of the American public support marijuana legalization, the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Public Health Association (APHA) have stopped short of endorsing RMLs, citing many unanswered questions. Opponents argue that the resultant increases in marijuana consumption may cause diminished cognition, increased risk of amotivational syndrome, and lethargy. Moreover, they claim that excessive marijuana use may lead to poorer physical and psychological health, as well as harder drug use and diminished educational attainment. If RMLs generate adverse health, human capital, and cognitive effects, these could have substantial negative impacts on labor market outcomes.



On the other hand, RMLs could have positive effects on employment and wages. If legal access to marijuana induces substitution away from substances that have negative impacts on productivity, including opioids or heavier drinking, labor market outcomes may improve (or at least be no worse off). In addition, if marijuana is effective at alleviating physical health ailments, relieving stress, or improving psychological health, such health improvements could generate positive labor market spillovers.

Legalization can also impact labor market outcomes more directly. First, the introduction of a new legal industry — which may include cultivation and production of marijuana as well as legal marijuana sales at recreational dispensaries — may increase employment. Second, RMLs may improve labor market outcomes by reducing the likelihood that individuals have a criminal record for marijuana possession. This may be especially true for young Black and Hispanic men, who have faced historical discrimination in the criminal justice system.



This study, authored by **Caterina Muratori, Yang Liang, Dhaval Dave, and Joe Sabia** is the first to explore the impact of recreational marijuana legalization on labor market outcomes of working-age individuals. First, using repeated cross-sectional data from the 2002-2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) and a difference-in-differences approach, we document that RML adoption is associated with a 2-to-4 percentage-point increase in adult marijuana use among adults. However, analyses of monthly Current Population Survey show little evidence that RML adoption has an economically important impact on the probability of employment or wages of all working-age individuals. Instead, findings show some evidence that RML adoption is associated with small increases in adult employment in the agricultural sector, which is consistent with the opening of a new licit market to produce and cultivate marijuana.

Do Recreational Marijuana Laws Reduce Racial Disparities in Arrests?

(Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Law and Economics*)

"[W]hile white and Black and brown people use marijuana at similar rates, Black and brown people have been arrested, prosecuted, and convicted at disproportionate rates."

-- U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, October 6, 2022



The causes of racial disparities in arrests are hotly debated among U.S. policymakers. While race-specific differences in human capital acquisition and labor market opportunities may play a role, racial bias in prosecutorial decisions and policing practices has taken center stage in policy debates. Among the most high-profile policing reforms include increased monitoring of interactions between suspects and police, greater racial diversity in

police hiring, and increased investments in diversity training. In addition, criminal justice reformers have pursued the decriminalization (or depenalization) of non-violent criminal offenses with historically large racial disparities in arrests. One of the most prominent such reforms has been the legalization of recreational marijuana.

Between January 2012 and the present, 24 states and the District of Columbia (D.C.) have adopted recreational marijuana laws (RMLs). RMLs legalize the possession, cultivation, and consumption of a limited amount of marijuana (e.g., one or two ounces) by anyone 21 years of age or older for any reason, including recreational purposes. Purchases of marijuana can be made at recreational dispensaries simply by showing proof of age.

Proponents of RMLs point out that ending the prohibition on recreational marijuana can generate substantial social cost savings, as the annual costs associated with enforcing prohibition — including policing, court, and prison costs — total \$3.6 billion annually. Moreover, because the majority of marijuana-related arrests are for non-violent offenses — such as street-level drug dealing and transport of small quantities of drugs for transactions (i.e., couriers) — the crime-related social benefits of marijuana prohibition are likely small, especially given scant evidence of gateway effects to harder drug use. Less than a third of such arrests are related to higher-level offenses, such as the distribution of large quantities of drugs to dealers.

In addition to efficiency gains, proponents of marijuana legalization argue that RML adoption can also serve important racial equity-related ends, given substantial racial disparities in enforcement of marijuana prohibition. Despite comparable marijuana usage rates, Blacks are 3.6 times more likely than Whites to be arrested for marijuana-related offenses. Blacks are also substantially more likely than Whites to enter prison due to a marijuana-related conviction. In addition, Hispanics are overrepresented — both relative to their population share and their relative prevalence of marijuana usage — in marijuana-related arrests.

The disparate impact of marijuana prohibition enforcement on racial/ethnic minorities may be an important contributor to longer-run economic inequality. The adoption of RMLs could generate important economic benefits, particularly for those who have been disproportionately harmed by prohibition. Underlining this point, in October 2022, President Joseph R. Biden announced a pardon for those who had been convicted of a federal offense of simple marijuana possession.

This new study by **Zachary Fone, Gokhan Kumpas, and Joe Sabia** (currently at the revise and resubmit stage at the *Journal of Law and Economics*) provides new estimates of the impact of RML adoption on racial disparities in arrest. Using data from the 2000-2019 Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) and a two-way fixed effects (TWFE) approach, the authors document that RML adoption is associated with a 122.1 per



100,000 population decline in adult marijuana arrests. This average marginal effect masks important race-specific heterogeneity: arrests of Black adults fall by 325.2 per 100,000 population, whereas arrests of Whites fall by 115.2 per 100,000 population. The Black-White arrest decline differential (2.1 per 1,000 persons) is both statistically significant and economically meaningful and suggests that Black adults gained in absolute arrest declines relative to their White adult counterparts.

However, the authors find that this absolute gain was entirely explained by pre-treatment race differentials in marijuana-related arrests. After adjusting for pre-treatment arrest differentials, they find that the percentage decline in marijuana arrests in response to RMLs was comparable (statistically and economically) for Whites and Blacks. To the extent that there were similar race-specific marijuana consumption (and possession) responses to RMLs among young adults (Martins et al. 2021), who are responsible for a large share of arrests, these findings are consistent with the hypothesis of “race-blind” repeal of marijuana prohibition. However, the findings also show that RMLs did little to reduce the relative gap (in percentage terms) in marijuana-related arrests between Whites and Blacks. This study was supported by grant funding from the Drug Enforcement and Policy Center at The Ohio State University.

Targeted Liberalization: China's Foreign Investment Regulation Reform and Its Post-WTO-Accession Export Surge

(Published in *Review of International Economics*)



To gain membership in the World Trade Organization in 2001, China significantly revised its regulations on foreign trade and investment. These changes occurred alongside rapid shifts in the nature of capital inflows, with the predominant form of entry transitioning from joint ventures to wholly foreign-owned affiliates. Foreign-invested enterprises began to contribute an increasing share of China's booming exports, particularly those tied to global value chains (GVCs). This study

examines the extent to which China's liberalization of foreign ownership influenced these observed trends in capital inflows and Chinese exports.

Yang Liang, Mary Lovely, and Hongsheng Zhang analyze the impact of the reforms by accounting for both the activities from which foreign equity caps were removed and those that newly encouraged foreign investment. Using a difference-in-differences approach, they estimate the effects on the entry of foreign firms and their exports. To address bias from heterogeneous and dynamic treatment effects, they employ novel dynamic difference-in-differences estimators. Their findings suggest that the elimination of foreign equity caps led to a surge in wholly foreign-owned firms, especially in sectors that are R&D-intensive and require high skill levels. Simultaneously, new investment incentives encouraged foreign entry, notably in joint ventures, and boosted processing exports linked to GVCs. Reduced-form calculations indicate that changes in FDI policy account for nearly 9% of the increase in exports from foreign-invested firms over the decade in focus. The impact was more pronounced in sectors designated as "high-tech industries" by the Chinese government, which were responsible for the majority of the estimated export growth attributable to policy changes in foreign-invested firms.



CHEPS Applied Economics Workshop

CHEPS hosted an Applied Economic Research Workshop on May 3rd, 2024, starting early at 9 am with coffee, bagels, pastries, and other refreshments. Interested students, mostly Ph.D. candidates, traveled from around San Diego to attend the event, presented by **Professor D. Mark Anderson**. As a Mixtape Session, this presentation aimed to provide graduate students with practical tips and insights to help them start and complete their research projects successfully and the so called “hidden curriculum” that a pro researcher wishes they would have known when they were in the same shoes as the attendees.



The workshop was divided into two sessions, the sections on doing applied economics research and the sections on everything after finishing a research project. Each section focused on a specific area of the academic or researcher’s research lifecycle. Between and during each section were brief clarifying points allowing attendees to keep engaged.

The first session was titled "Starting Your Research Project" and covered the key steps that students need to take to initiate their research. This included selecting a topic, conducting a literature review, identifying data sources, and establishing a research question. Interesting points were made on when one should develop a question around available data sources, or how to identify a hole in the relevant literature to base your model on.

The second section was titled "Practical Tips for Writing Your Applied Paper" and focused on the skills needed to write a successful applied research paper. Prof. Anderson discussed the importance of developing a clear argument, structuring the paper effectively, and using evidence to support claims. They also emphasized the need to use clear and concise language, avoid jargon, and to write for a broad audience.

A third section opened the floor for longer form questions and answers, primarily focusing on job market, conferences, and networking concerns, before breaking away for an outdoor lunch on a sunny day at San Diego State University.

The next section focused on "The Publication Process" and covered the key steps involved in getting a paper published. Starting with selecting a suitable journal by balancing between what is accessible for the paper’s topic, what is plausible for the quality of the paper, and what your end goal is (tenure, etc.). Then, just as important are: preparing a manuscript that

meets the journal's guidelines, and navigating the peer review process. The presenters also discussed the importance of responding to reviewer feedback constructively and ensuring that the paper is well-presented and engaging, as well as understanding when to move on to the next journal if necessary.

The fifth section, "Refereeing," focused on the role of referees in the publication process. Prof. Anderson's presenters discussed the importance of providing constructive feedback to authors, maintaining anonymity, and meeting deadlines. Reports can be written in a negative light or a positive light depending on two goals: convincing the editor on how to proceed with the paper, but also sending useful information to the author to facilitate improvement. He also highlighted the importance of ensuring that the referee's report is well-written, clear, and objective.

The final section covered how to get funding for, how to submit papers to, and to successfully attend and present at conferences and engage in productive networking as a graduate student. Though secondary to the other sections, understanding how to utilize opportunities like these to maximize input on research and extends one's reach into the world of academia and applied economics research.

Overall, the Applied Economic Research Workshop provided invaluable tips and tricks to all who attended. Comments on the afternoon from attendees read "so informative and engaging," "practical, frank, and REAL advice," with "many real-life examples," and "a broad set of topics relevant to graduate students and early-career researchers." The workshop was a valuable resource for graduate students and will undoubtedly help them to produce high-quality research that has an impact in the field of applied economics.



CHEPS-ECON 2023-2024 Seminar Series

During the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters, CHEPS and the Economics Department hosted 26 economists presenting scholarly research on various sub-fields, including demography, health, labor, crime, international, environmental, development, trade, law, inequality economics, and political economy, economic history. These external speakers came from a variety of different research institutions and universities, including the University of Central Florida, University of California, San Diego, Brown University, University of California, Davis, University of Missouri, University of Tennessee, University of Pittsburgh, University of Toronto, Ohio State University, Texas A&M University, Michigan State University, University of Notre Dame, University of Oregon, University of British Columbia, Georgia Institute of Technology, Brigham Young University, Arizona State University, Cornell University, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, University of California, Berkeley, Dartmouth University, and Emory University. All seminars were zoom-friendly, with a live camera feed and shared presentation slides, allowing for remote attendance and participation.

The weekly seminars were attended by CHEPS affiliates, professors across disciplines, and both undergraduate and graduate students. The seminars served to introduce students to a variety of research interests and allowed professors affiliated with CHEPS to network with faculty from other universities. This semester, reflecting on the seminars by sketching economic theories inspired by the presented research for their microeconomics class and writing mock referee reports for their econometrics class, first-year master's students had a very engaging experience attending seminars.



Presenters also met with CHEPS affiliates in small 1-on-1 sessions. Affiliates had the opportunity to discuss their current and future research and solicit advice on how to best progress through their programs. In the fall, RAs spoke with speakers about the relative quality of various economics and public policy Ph.D. programs and were advised on how to stand out among the growing pool of applicants and find a good

match for their interests. By the spring, RAs were able to discuss their growing responsibilities at the Center, including their own research. The 2023-2024 Seminar Series offered an invaluable experience for both faculty and students. Thank you all for attending; we encourage you to continue doing so for our Fall 2024 Seminar Series! Below are summaries of the research from this year's weekly seminars.

Sports Betting Legalization Amplifies Emotional Cues & Intimate Partner Violence

(Kyu Matsuzawa, University of Oregon)



Kyu Matsuzawa presented research on the relationship between legalized sports betting, emotional cues, and reported intimate partner violence (IPV) within the United States. Significant growth of the sports betting market followed a 2018 Supreme Court decision that allowed states beyond Nevada to legalize sports gambling. This paper utilizes data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) spanning 2011-2022 and matches NIBRS agencies to NFL franchises, defining "home" teams based on proximity and fan intensity and assessing crime reporting biases. Using the hourly crime rates

during game days and supplementing with data on NFL game outcomes and sports betting legalization timelines, the paper finds that in states where sports betting is legalized, the effect of unexpected losses in sports events increases IPV by approximately ten percentage points compared to states without legalized sports betting. This rise in IPV correlates with emotional cues triggered by unexpected sporting outcomes, such as upset losses for home teams. Notably, this effect is amplified in states with legal mobile betting, larger betting markets, and on Sundays following paydays.

Persistence of Female Political Power in Africa

(Siwan Anderson, University of British Columbia)



Siwan Anderson presented exciting new research on female political representation and power in Africa. Recognizing that previous research had overlooked the traditional role of women as leaders, Dr. Anderson fills an interesting gap in the relevant literature through a vast historical account of a variety of cultures in sub-Saharan Africa. The research is conducted by using pre-colonial female leadership data detailing positions and roles of power and several

estimation strategies, including employing a Regression Discontinuity Design to research the effect of living near ethnic boundaries and showing robustness by scouring many of the region and culture-specific folktale stories. Her results provide evidence that leadership historically granted to females tends to persist but is potentially reversed when historical accounts confirm institutional changes enforced by colonizers.

The Effects of the Dobbs Decision on Fertility

(Daniel Dench, Georgia Institute of Technology)



Daniel Dench's paper explores the repercussions of the landmark *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, which overturned the landmark *Roe v. Wade*, which set the landscape for abortion access for the last 50 years and ushered in a significant shift in the law. Immediately in the aftermath of the ruling, abortions were halted in 10 states. Dr. Dench provides the first estimates of the effects of this decision on fertility using a

pre-determined synthetic difference-in-differences design— meaning a model was selected primarily on prior beliefs and backing economic theory rather than being updated dependent on the data— applied to provisional natality data for the first half of 2023. The results indicate that states with abortion bans experienced an average increase in births of 2.3 percent relative to states where abortion was not restricted. The paper checks for spillovers to other states via traveling and heterogeneity among different age cohorts.

The Long-Term Economic Effects of DUIs

(Emily Leslie, Brigham Young University)

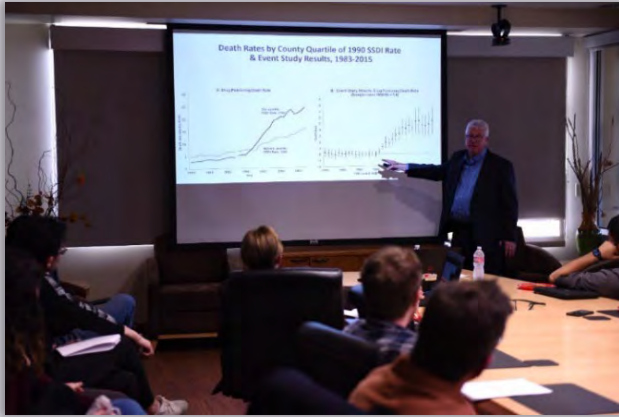


Emily Leslie utilizes a regression discontinuity design to study the differential effects of *just* getting a DUI by leveraging the legal limit to Blood Alcohol Content (BAC). The criminal justice system aims to increase social welfare by reducing crime. Optimal punishment weighs social benefits against the cost to the justice-involved person. In this paper, they quantify the magnitude of both the *de jure* and *de facto* punishment for crime on education, labor market outcomes,

and long-term financial distress in the context of DUI offenses. They find that having breath tests above legal thresholds increases the likelihood of criminal DUI convictions and is associated with reduced earnings and college completion for drivers in the state of Texas, particularly for drivers who are employed at the time of the incident. This suggests the true economic penalties for DUIs are higher than the *de jure* sanctions when considering the net impact on the present value of earnings over a 5-year window. They find suggestive evidence that Hispanic drivers are more negatively affected by getting a DUI than white drivers.

Prescription for Disaster: Changing Physician Treatment Patterns and the Drug Crisis

(William Evans, University of Notre Dame)



In his paper, **Bill Evans** offers an alternative explanation to the nearly exponential surge in drug poisoning deaths plaguing the United States post-2000, the growth of which has already persisted for over four decades. To put it in perspective, there have been over a million drug poisoning deaths (overdoses) recorded since 2000 and 111,005 deaths in 2021 alone, with no signs of slowing down. Two hypotheses are present in the literature explaining the

opioid epidemic: a demand-sided explanation that addiction hotspots have driven increased need for use and or potency, or a supply-sided explanation that the growth of pharmaceutical companies and the release of new opioids are the culprits. Dr. Evans' paper shows instead that the alternative explanation for the change in trend post-2000 is an intermediary: changing prescriber practices. The paper goes to great lengths to show that this is not due to any of the previously stated reasons but shows that, conditional on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) used as a proxy for pain, the probability of being prescribed an analgesic increases greatly following changes in the pain-related health science community in the late 1990's and early 2000's (including considering pain as the 5th vital sign).

Unions and Labor Market Effects of NAFTA

(Anca Cristea, University of Oregon)

Anca Cristea investigates how the presence of organized labor (unions) and Right-to-Work (RTW) laws differentially impacted labor markets when trade was shocked by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The relevant literature has shown how trade shocks affect labor markets; this research contributes by exploring how unions affect labor markets in response to trade. The paper uses United States RTW states law variation as a proxy for "anti-union" locations, while those without are considered to be union-favorable locations and controls for socio-economic characteristics of local labor markets. NAFTA had a differential impact on employment in locations more favorable to unions, as they were less exposed to labor competition from Mexico. The paper also finds that young workers, less-educated workers, and men have the most job protection when working in non-RTW locations. There is also evidence for increased wages in RTW relative to non-RTW locations in response to NAFTA, suggesting that in the face of import competition unions made wage concessions in exchange for increased job security.

The Effects of Renewable Energy Projects on Employment: Evidence from Brazil

(Danae Hernandez-Cortes, Arizona State University)



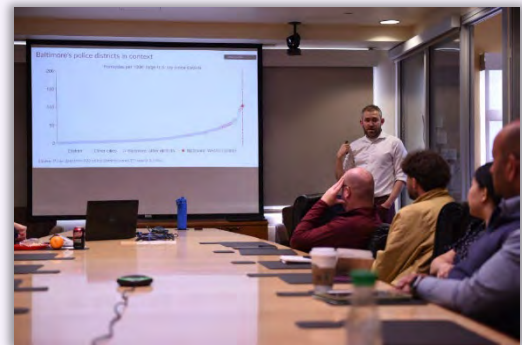
Danae Hernandez-Cortes studies how new renewable energy projects in Brazil affect local municipalities' economies on the firm and worker levels. The paper aims to show causal evidence that solar and wind projects increased incomes and spending in affected localities simply through the mechanism of increased employment and not due to other factors like the creation of federal roads or electrical grid expansions. The paper utilizes a new difference-in-differences literature

model developed by de Chaisemartin and d'Haultfoeuille to account for staggered implementation of renewable energy projects and potentially heterogeneous treatment effects caused by the varying aspects of the projects, like high energy potential location, distance to localities, and size of the population that will use the new energy source. Results that are then robust to these considerations show significant positive effects on employment from new wind projects. Future research looks to exploit new variations in the implementation of solar projects, as after the sample period, Brazil's solar capacity increased sevenfold from less than 10% to more than 50% of wind capacity in 2017.

Reducing Gun Violence Without Exacerbating the Harms of Policing in Baltimore's Western District

(Max Kapustin, Cornell University)

Max Kapustin measures the effectiveness of a crime reduction program employed in Baltimore. The objective of the program was to find an alternative route to reduce neighborhood gun violence, besides using physical policing force, in one of the highest per capita homicide rate localities in the nation, Baltimore's Western police district. The strategy of the program is to direct police and social service resources to the people actively engaged in gun violence, relaying positive information on the dangers of engaging in violent and or illegal activities. Using a randomized control trial approach, the paper estimates that the program reduced homicides and shootings in the district by roughly a third in the first 18 months following implementation. There was no evidence of spillovers to other parts of Baltimore, showing the limited scale of these previously violent behaviors. Despite police participation, there was no increase in arrests or other police crime prevention patterns.



Hidden Effects of Algorithmic Recommendations

(Alex Albright, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis)

Alex Albright uncovers the effect of algorithmic recommendations made for human decisions in high-stakes settings. The study leverages a 2011 change from an algorithmic prediction tool to an algorithmic decision maker (recommendation) in the Kentucky court system to uncover causal effects algorithmic recommendations. The recommendation affected judges' decisions by either recommending a lenient decision (no money bail), a get out of jail free card, or a harsh decision (money bail), which could lead to spending time in jail if one cannot afford to pay the bail– all based on a predetermined decision rule based on a calculated risk score. After setting up a theoretical framework that could explain the mechanism behind what might incentivize a judge to follow a recommendation or deviate, the study utilizes a regression discontinuity design to weed out the cases that are just below the risk score that determines differential bail leniency. The paper finds that these recommendations significantly affect decisions: lenient recommendations increase lenient bail decisions by over 50% in these close cases.



When Democracy Refuses to Die: Evaluating a Training Program for New Politicians

(Frederico Finan, University of California, Berkeley)



Frederico Finan studies the effect of a civil society program, RenovaBR, on lowering barriers to entry into the Brazilian government through training future politicians. The paper evaluates the program's ability to create skilled political candidates in the face of both hard-set political parties and difficult elections. Participation in the program significantly increased the share of individuals who ran for elected positions, even conditional on prior desires to run. The potential channels for improved outcomes for these aspiring politicians include increased human capital to engage in electoral processes more effectively, signaling to constituents that they are trained, and the cumulative effect of the program generating better candidates, therefore attracting more funding for future cohorts. Though the study determines that RenovaBR's re-instilling of democratic ideals is important, it will take time to break down more barriers to entry (and success) created by the factionism of political parties.

Nation-Building Through Military Service (Diego-Ramos Toro, Dartmouth College)

Diego Ramos-Toro studies how conscription (mandatory military service) might affect shaping attitudes and forming beliefs following a nation-building narrative, like belief in the righteousness of a country's ideals or the importance of a country's military presence relative to the rest of the world. These ideas extend to attitudes towards government and other people. To answer these questions, the paper utilizes original survey data on 29 cohorts of conscripts in Argentina between 1944 and 1975 and pairs it with lottery-determined service, essentially a random assignment allowing for use as an instrumental variable. The study finds that serving in the military leads to increased national identity at about .23 standard deviations higher than the mean and, in the long run, increased social integration likely due to interacting with a diverse core of individuals during service. Voting or paying taxes are not affected. Dr. Ramos-Toro believes a mechanism could be self-persuasive techniques like self-reflection on service and repetition of behaviors like singing military chants.



The Cutter Incident and Medical Mistrust in America (Maggie Jones, Emory University)



Maggie Jones studies the question of how medical science incidents affect medical mistrust, placing focus on the “Cutter Incident” during the United States polio epidemic era of the mid 1900s. Continued mistrust of the medical sciences during recent years begs the question of how past health shocks affect future reception of vaccines or general attitudes towards the existence of a sickness. In particular, the Cutter Incident was the result of a vaccine not being produced safely, leading to accidental infections of those who were dosed– which could potentially cause death through paralysis and the slow “wasting” of muscles and organs if left untreated. Dr. Jones uses this as a geographical treatment to determine the likelihood of receiving a polio vaccine, morbidity, and mortality rates due to poliomyelitis infection, and collects data from archived surveys and newspaper articles. Locations that experienced a “Cutter Incident” had lower rates of vaccination, and higher rates of morbidity and mortality, and these effects persist through multiple robustness and subsampling tests. Further, the paper extends the study to interact this treatment with later health shocks, showing that negative effects were still persistent through other sicknesses like measles/mumps/rubella outbreaks.

Little Divergence in America – Market Access and Demographic Transition in the United States

(Melanie Guldi, University of Central Florida)

Melanie Guldi investigates the causal relationship between increased market access and demographic transition in the United States during the latter half of the 19th century. The authors construct novel measures of fertility changes and railroad access at the county level from 1850 to 1890. While many studies have explored the theoretical underpinnings of demographic transition, particularly in Europe, there is a notable gap in research focused specifically on the United States during this period. The authors aim to fill this gap by analyzing the fertility effects of improved market access, measured by exposure to the expanding railway network.

The paper introduces the broader context of demographic transition, highlighting the ongoing debate among economists and demographers about the factors influencing fertility decline. The authors propose a unified approach, examining the impact of market access on demographic trends, particularly focusing on the effects of railways on economic activity and specialization. The theoretical model suggests that changes in fertility mainly occur through extensive margins, with households shifting toward occupations associated with lower fertility rates. The empirical results indicate that increased market access led to declining fertility, with the effect more pronounced in regions initially characterized by higher manufacturing intensity, suggesting shifts in comparative advantage.

Fertility and The Education of African Parents and Children

(Tom Vogl, University of California, San Diego)



Through his research, **Tom Vogl** uncovers relationships between fertility, adult education, and child education amongst 33 African countries around the beginning of fertility declines during the 20th century. This paper reproduces the commonly held belief that fertility declines go hand-in-hand with rising female education, while introducing empirical evidence that the relationship between fertility and children's education is much weaker, at least among Sub-Saharan African countries. As Dr.

Vogl finds that areas with falling fertility are not per-se the areas with rising school enrollment but are likely to be areas with weak, rising grade attainment, this research provides some empirical foundation for the relationships between fertility rates, women's education, and children's education among Sub-Saharan African countries. This work opens avenues for further research into the causal mechanisms at play between fertility and education.

Competition in the Black Market: Estimating the Causal Effect of Gangs in Chicago

(Jesse Bruhn, Brown University)

Using novel police department data showing geospatial distribution of gangs within Chicago over time, **Jesse Bruhn** quantitatively describes the economic and social consequences of gang introduction on Chicago neighborhoods. The paper explores the economic consequences of gang activity, finding that gangs reduce the number of homes listed for sale, decrease home prices, and lower median household income. Delving into the dynamics of gang territory, the study reveals the existence of many small gangs with fluid boundaries, and violence is found to be volatile at the borders of gang territory.

In addition to the extensive empirical analyses presented in this paper, Dr. Bruhn conducted detailed field work, spending nights on the corner with gang members and Chicago PD, to better understand the relationship between gangs and the areas that they inhabit. The paper goes on to show that the increased crime rates are not driven by changes in policing behavior and argues that the mechanism for these effects is the operation of illegal markets by gangs.

Who Benefits from Meritocracy?

(Diana Moreira, University of California, Davis)

Using transcribed local administrative paper records, **Diana Moreira** evaluates the impact of the 1883 Pendleton Act on lower socio-economic status individuals' inclusion in government positions. Dr. Moreira finds that, after the Pendleton Act and its resulting application exam for certain federal positions, there was a reduction in applicants from low-SES backgrounds, and the benefits went largely to the upper-middle class. This research adopts a difference-in-differences strategy and leverages newly compiled data on the socioeconomic backgrounds of government employees. The historical context of the Pendleton Act provides a unique lens to analyze the short- and long-term consequences of employing exams in the public sector.



The paper shows that meritocracy has caveats when considering individuals' access to schooling and connections to officials. With valuable insights for discussions related to personnel policies, workplace inequality, and recruitment exams, Dr. Moreira's research illustrates that more impersonal selection criteria do not guarantee increased visibility and the hiring of underrepresented groups.

Convictions, Incarcerations, and Earnings in an Event Study Framework

(Brittany Street, University of Missouri)



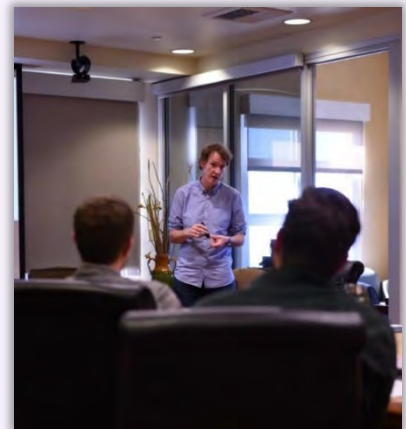
In this research paper, **Brittany Street** uncovers the causal effect of encounters with the U.S. criminal justice system on individuals' labor market outcomes. Though a widely studied topic, this work distinguishes itself with its careful focus on characterizing offenders' employment profiles, which allows for more accurate estimates of the true effect of convictions or incarcerations. The work uses high-quality matched data from the Criminal Justice

Administrative Records Systems (CJARS) for individuals who became incarcerated, linked with W-2s, and self-reported ACS responses for a causal analysis of the effects of criminal justice system encounters on affected individuals' future employment and earnings. Dr. Street finds that after incarceration and a return to formal employment, those who avoid recidivism experience increases in earnings- contrary to past compelling evidence of the opposite.

Trade, Tariffs, and Inequality

(James Lake, University of Tennessee)

James Lake and colleagues construct new data on US tariffs between 1972 and 1988, a previously unstudied time frame with the lack of aggregated tariff data. The data reveal a distinctive two-phase liberalization, with specific tariffs contributing to an "accidental liberalization" between 1972 and 1979. By using a novel algorithm that produces an aggregated national tariff dataset, his team then investigates the evolution of U.S. tariffs before and after the Tokyo Round of the GATT. One goal of Dr. Lake's work is to make this annual product-level import tariff data publicly available so that other researchers can study these same sorts of questions.



This paper argues that much of the economic impact of trade on the U.S. was felt pre-1990, and these years demand more attention from researchers in understanding the impacts of U.S. tariffs on labor market outcomes. Dr. Lake and colleagues point to the role that industry-level tariff cuts played in driving income inequality as skill-intensity increased in these same industries, highlighting another area under the influence of trade-induced skill-biased technological change.

Reconstruction-Era Schooling & Black-White Inequality

(Daniel Jones, University of Pittsburgh)

Dan Jones and his colleague use data on teachers in Black schools during the US Reconstruction era, along with linked census records, to examine the effects of exposure to education on Black students' life outcomes. The research finds that Black children exposed to greater educational opportunities during this time had increased literacy rates and higher occupational standing as adults. Even further, Dr. Jones finds that these individuals' children (specifically sons) were more likely to be of higher occupational status than the sons of those who were not exposed to greater educational opportunity. This offers an argument for the impact that Reconstruction-era policies, had they not ended soon after they began, would have had on narrowing Black-White outcome gaps that have persisted into the 21st century.



Does Physicians' Female Socialization Influence Female Patients' Health?

(Tianyi Wang, University of Toronto)



Tianyi Wang examines the setting of Denmark and asks, “are physicians’ interactions with and recommended medical treatment for female patients affected by having daughters?” Dr. Wang and his colleagues utilize the randomness in the gender of a physician’s child and investigate the impacts on female patient outcomes, comparing doctors whose next child was female with those whose next child was male. Dr. Wang and colleagues found that increased female socialization

(through the avenue of having an additional daughter) positively affects female patient outcomes by reducing female cancer mortality rates and increasing the likelihood of administering pap smear procedures beyond the mandated requirements. These results provide empirical evidence of the important role that family environment plays in physician occupational responsibilities and open further research paths into the causal mechanisms at work here.

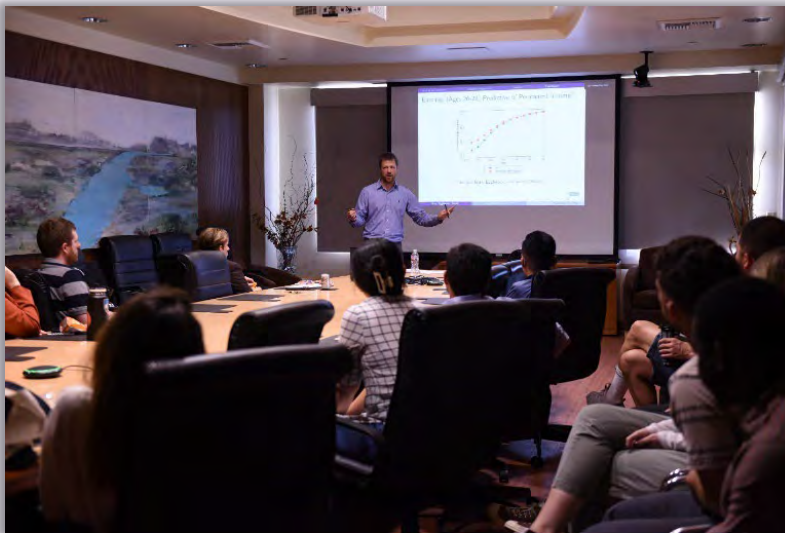
The Gift of a Lifetime: The Hospital, Modern Medicine & Mortality

(Alex Hollingsworth, The Ohio State University)

In this paper, **Alex Hollingsworth** and colleagues seek to understand the impacts that the Duke Endowment's early 20th century effort to revamp the North Carolina hospital system had on residents and future patients. More broadly, the research explores the relationships between modern medicine and its hospitals and the transition toward today's society, where medicine plays such a central role, along with the relationship between hospitals and mortality. The results provide evidence that access to these Duke-supported hospitals reduced infant mortality by 10%, and these effects persisted into later life, with a 9% reduction in mortality between ages 56 and 65. Mortality reductions were larger for Black infants than White infants, as Dr. Hollingsworth and colleagues' research suggests that the Duke Endowment hospital revamp effort reduced the Black-White infant mortality gap by one-third.

Heterogenous Long Run Effects of Universal Pre-K

(Andrew Barr, Texas A&M University)



In a new study, **Andrew Barr** dives into the world of publicly provided preschool education in Oklahoma and Georgia during the late 20th century. When looking at the entire population, these public pre-kindergarten programs seem to offer little to no impact on average earnings later in life, but once separating the main sample into relevant groups, the researchers show that this average effect masks the

effects felt by each group. Dr. Barr and colleagues provide evidence that these public programs slightly worsened outcomes for the lowest income group, many of whom were previously receiving pre-kindergarten support through other, better public programs like Head Start that switched over to this universal pre-K program. Families just above the Head Start eligibility who have newfound access to preschool education, on the other hand, earned much more later in life as a result of the program, illustrating the potential interesting relationships that may hide behind a seeming null effect.

Culpable Consumption: Shame & Water Conservation

(James Sears, Michigan State University)



James Sears explores the effects of pricing changes and policy enactments made by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties) to combat the 2011-2017 California drought. He specifically studies how households react to the three types of policies enacted from roughly July 2015 to March 2016 by the water district and their spillovers during the

Excessive Use Penalty Ordinance (EUP). (1) Moral Suasion: warning letters citing potential financial penalties and public disclosure requirements sent to high-usage households should they not actively conserve water. (2) Public shame: reports of water conservation violators via the California Public Records Act and local news also exposing violators to the wider public. (3) Price effects: fines from the EUP, which included penalty fees and draught surcharges in addition to the standard marginal pricing and service charge structure. Sears finds large negative effects in response to the shocks. Interestingly, these effects eventually revert to the pretreatment means within a year, suggesting short-run outlooks on moral obligations to conserve and perceptions of shame, which pose a great policy problem for long-run conservation efforts.

Taking a Chance on Workers

(Patrick Turner, University of Notre Dame)

Here, **Patrick Turner** and colleagues examine a supported work program's impact on employment and earnings over four years. The program, ReHire Colorado, coupled subsidized employment with comprehensive case management services, aiming to accelerate participants' return to the workforce and enhance their overall labor market prospects. Researchers found that program access led to a 21% employment rate increase and a 16% increase in earnings, with lasting improvements in employment stability, job quality, and well-being. The results support the program's emphasis on fostering good job matches, with match quality being an important factor. Machine learning showed no treatment effect heterogeneity, supporting the idea that subsidized employment programs emphasizing permanent job matches benefit a wide range of low-wage workers. The paper contributes to the understanding of active labor market programs by evaluating a widely applicable model that achieves notable success in re-employing workers with significant barriers. The study's comprehensive examination, including impacts on employment, job quality, and well-being, and the techniques used to assess heterogeneity, distinguishes it from existing literature on subsidized employment programs.



THE CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS & POLICY STUDIES

FALL 2023 SEMINAR SERIES

Co-Sponsored by the Department of Economics

Thursdays @ 2:00PM-3:15PM
Finch Conference Room (AL660)



August 24
Melanie Guldi
Economic Demography
University of Central Florida



August 31
Tom Vogl
Labor Economics
University of California, San Diego



September 7
Jesse Bruhn
Labor Economics
Brown University



September 14
Diana Moreira
Labor Economics
University of California, Davis



September 28
Brittany Street
Economics of Crime
University of Missouri



October 5
James Lake
International Economics
University of Tennessee



October 12
Dan Jones
Public Economics
University of Pittsburgh



October 26
Tianyi Wang
Political Economy & Economic History
University of Toronto



November 2
Alex Hollingsworth
Health Economics
Ohio State University



November 16
Andrew Barr
Labor Economics
Texas A&M University



November 30
James Sears
Environmental Economics
Michigan State University



December 7
Patrick Turner
Labor & Development Economics
University of Notre Dame



College of Arts and Letters
Center for
Health Economics and
Policy Studies

Out of town? Join us on Zoom!
<https://SDSU.zoom.us/j/81548165804>



@SDSUCHEPS

The Fall 2023 Seminar Series is supported, in part, by the SDSU Student Success Fee and external funding from CHEPS

THE CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS & POLICY STUDIES

SPRING 2024 SEMINAR SERIES

Co-Sponsored by the Department of Economics
Thursdays @ 3:30PM-4:45PM
Finch Conference Room (AL 660)



January 25
Kyu Matsuzawa
Economics of Crime
University of Oregon



February 1
Siwan Anderson
Development Economics
University of British Columbia



February 8
Daniel Dench
Health Economics
Georgia Institute of Technology



February 15
Emily Leslie
Law & Economics
Brigham Young University



February 22
Bill Evans
Labor Economics
University of Notre Dame



February 29
Anca Cristea
International Trade
University of Oregon

SDSU

College of Arts and Letters
Center for
Health Economics and
Policy Studies

Out of town? Join us on Zoom!
<https://sdsu.zoom.us/j/88923406625>



@SDSUCHEPS

The Spring 2024 Seminar Series is supported, in part, by the College of Arts & Letters, SDSU Student Success Fee and external funding from CHEPS.

March 7
Danae Hernandez-Cortes
Environmental Economics
Arizona State University



March 14
Max Kapustin
Economics of Crime
Cornell University



March 21
Alex Albright
Law & Economics and Inequality
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis



March 28
Frederico Finan
Political Economy
University of California, Berkeley



April 11
Diego Ramos-Toro
Development Economics
Dartmouth University



April 25
Chinhui Juhn
Labor & Gender Economics
University of Houston



May 2
Mireille Jacobson
Health Economics
University of Southern California



CHEPS in the Media

The Minimum Wage Does Not Reduce Poverty



Employees and customers at a Dunkin' Donuts in Santa Monica, Calif., in 2014. (Mario Anzuoni/Reuters)

In addition to peer-reviewed publications, another metric that CHEPS uses to measure its success is the national media coverage of our scholarship. Several CHEPS publications received widespread media coverage this academic year. In particular, (1) a National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper from **Dhaval Dave, Yang Liang, Caterina Muratori, and Joseph Sabia** on the effect of legalizing marijuana for recreational purposes on labor market outcomes, (2) a National Bureau of Economic Research

Working Paper on the effect of the minimum wage on poverty (**Richard Burkhauser, Drew McNichols, and Joseph Sabia**), and (3) a working paper from **Toshio Ferrazares, Mark Anderson, and Joseph Sabia** on the ineffectiveness of gun buyback programs, received coverage in a wide set of media outlets, including the Cato Institute, the National Review, and the Public News Service.

There are 1.2 guns for every person in the United States, for a total of over 393 million estimated firearms in circulation. Tragically, gun violence stands as the primary cause of death among young men aged 15–19, with firearms implicated in 51 percent of completed suicides and 73 percent of all homicides. To limit the supply of firearms in circulation, a number of U.S. cities have implemented gun buyback programs (GBPs). GBPs use public funds to purchase firearms privately owned by civilians. CHEPS researchers were the first to examine the effect of GBPs on gun crime using credible causal estimates and data from the 1991–2015 National Incident-Based Reporting System. The findings from our research received widespread media attention from both the Cato Institute and the Public News Service. Our findings show no evidence that GBPs are effective at deterring gun violence. Furthermore, we detected a small increase in gun crimes in the two months following a GBP with no corresponding change in non-gun crimes. This finding can be explained by a possible criminal response to perceptions about the probability of self-defense among law-abiding gun owners.

NM gun buybacks draw scores, but experts question effectiveness



New Mexico has the eighth-highest rate of gun deaths in the United States, according to Everytown for Gun Safety. (luengo_ua/Adobestock)

CHEPS Affiliates and Fellows

Faculty Research Fellows

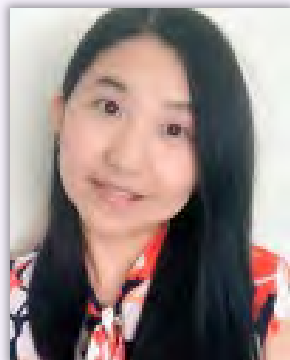


Audrey Beck

San Diego State University

Audrey Beck is an Associate Professor of Sociology at San Diego State University. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her Ph.D. in sociology with specializations in demography and stratification from Duke University. Following graduation, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Office of Population Research and Center for Research on Child Wellbeing at Princeton University. While there, her primary focus was the impact of union formation and dissolution on child health, parenting, and child school readiness. She first came to San Diego State University as a postdoctoral research associate before joining the Sociology Department as an Assistant Professor in 2015.

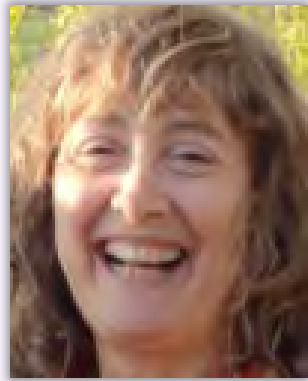
Her work uses a variety of demographic methods to understand race, ethnic, and nativity disparities in health. Recent work with colleagues at USC explores a) the impact of neighborhood economic conditions and crime on birth outcomes and b) the collection of police-involved death data and the contextual and policy correlates of such deaths. Dr. Beck has received a number of grants and fellowships and has published her research in *Demography*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Journal of Gerontology*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Sociology of Education*, and the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, among others.



Hao Fe

San Diego State University

Hao Fe is an Assistant Professor at San Diego State University. She joined the Department of Economics in 2018 after receiving her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Rochester. Her research combines econometric models with emerging big data sources to develop novel causal inference approaches. Her areas of interest include peer effects, crime, and health economics. She has published in the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, and *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. During her time at SDSU, she has been honored with the critical thinking grant from the College of Arts and Letters three times and the Assigned Time grant for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities from San Diego State University twice.



Shoshana Grossbard

Scholar in Residence
San Diego State University

Shoshana Grossbard is a Professor Emerita of Economics at San Diego State University and a Research Fellow at the Institute of Labor Economics. She is also a member of the Family Inequality Network at the University of Chicago. Shoshana is a leading scholar in the economics of marriage and the family. Her work has been published in such journals as the *Journal of Political Economy*, *the Economic Journal*, and the *Journal of Population Economics*. She serves as president of the Society of Economics of the Household.



Yang Liang

San Diego State University

Yang Liang is an assistant professor of economics and assistant director for the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies at San Diego State University. Liang is an applied microeconomist with research interests in public policy analysis across the fields of labor economics, health economics, and international economics. His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of Health Economics*, the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *Review of International Economics*, *The World Economy*, the *China Economic Review*, and *JAMA: Pediatrics*. Liang received his Ph.D. in Economics from Syracuse University in 2018.



Brandy Lipton

University of California, Irvine

Brandy Lipton, Ph.D. is an applied microeconomist with expertise in health economics and public policy. Her research explores the connections between health care policies and both health and economic outcomes. The majority of her work examines state-level Medicaid policies and how they affect population health and well-being. One strand of her research has studied the effects of providing optional dental and vision benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees. This is a continuing area of study with ongoing work examining the impacts of these policies among children with Medicaid-enrolled parents and also among older adults eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. Dr. Lipton's research has been published in high-impact economics, policy, and medical journals, including *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Health Affairs*, *JAMA Health Forum*, and *American Journal of Public Health*. She has been funded as a Principal Investigator by the National Institutes of Health (NIDCR and NEI) and the William T. Grant Foundation.



Thiago de Lucena

San Diego State University

Thiago de Lucena is an assistant professor of economics at San Diego State University. Before joining SDSU, he received a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Davis. His main concentration is Applied Microeconomics, with research interests in Development Economics, Labor Economics, and Political Economy. His job market paper on a gender economics topic is at the revise-and-resubmit stage at the *Journal of Human Resources*.



Jacob Penglase

San Diego State University

Jacob Penglase is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at San Diego State University. He joined SDSU in 2020 after completing his Ph.D. in Economics at Boston College. His research focuses on family economics, including topics related to intra-household inequality, marriage, divorce, and fertility. His research has appeared in such journals as the *Economic Journal*, the *Journal of Public Economics*, and the *Journal of Development Economics*.



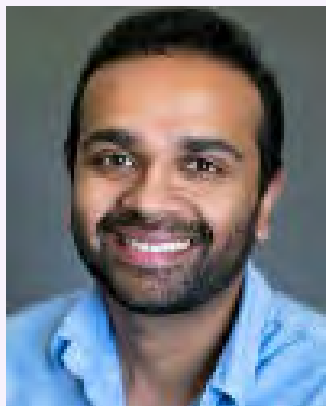
Julia Zhu

San Diego State University

Julia Zhu is an applied microeconomist. Her research interests are in labor economics, economics of migration, and economics of education. She has several lines of active research that investigate the causes and effects of high-skilled immigration, labor market institutions and inequality, local impacts of immigration enforcement policies, climate change and migration, and attitude formation towards immigrants and racial minorities. She received her Ph.D. from Cornell University in 2022. Prior to joining SDSU, she was a postdoctoral fellow in labor economics at the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH).



Faculty Affiliates

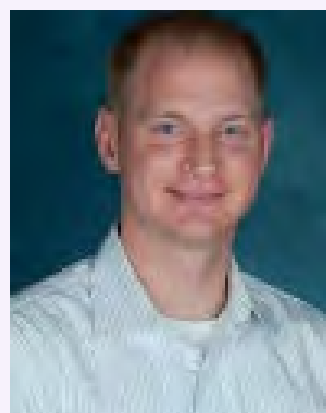


Prashant Bharadwaj

University of California, San Diego

Prashant Bharadwaj is a Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of California, San Diego. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University. Prashant's research interests are in development and labor economics, focusing on the interactions between early childhood health, gender, and education. He is also a Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research and holds research affiliations at the Center for Effective Global Action, the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development, and the Centre for Economic Policy Research.

Prashant is an Associate Editor at the *Journal of Development Economics* and the *Journal of Human Resources* and the Editor in Chief at *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.



Jeffrey Clemens

University of California, San Diego

Jeffrey Clemens is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of California, San Diego. He is also a Faculty Research Fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research. He is currently an associate editor at the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* and a co-editor at the *Journal of Public Economics* and *Journal of Health Economics*. He has previously held visiting positions at Stanford University and the University of Texas at Austin. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2011 and his B.A. from Harvard College in 2005

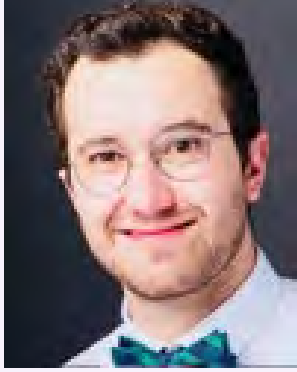


Zach Fone

United States Air Force Academy

Zach Fone is an Assistant Professor and Analyst for the Office of Labor and Economic Analysis (OLEA) at the United States Air Force Academy. He is helping to build OLEA's profile as a trusted and respected source of military manpower analysis and labor economics research more broadly. His research interests span the economics of crime and punishment, sports economics, labor economics, and health economics. His work has been published in the *Journal of Public Economics*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, and the *Journal of Sports Economics*. Zach received his Ph.D. in

Economics from the University of New Hampshire and has been a CHEPS Research Affiliate since 2017.



Gokhan Kumpas

California State University Los Angeles

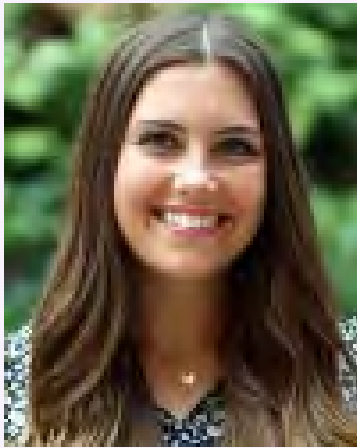
Dr. Gokhan Kumpas is an Assistant Professor of Economics at California State University, Los Angeles, since Fall 2022. He completed his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of New Hampshire in 2021, specializing in health economics and policy analysis. His dissertation explored the spillover effects of anti-discrimination and anti-violence policies.

Dr. Kumpas's research interests span applied microeconomics, with a particular focus on health, risky behaviors, crime, and education. His most recent scholarly contributions include a research paper on the impact of recreational marijuana laws (RMLs) on racial disparities in crime and mental health with Dr. Sabia, currently under review at the *Journal of Law and Economics*. Additionally, his recent work investigates the effects of athletic participation on welfare program participation, and the influence of anti-bullying laws on organ donations. His publications have appeared in top journals such as the *Journal of Human Resources* and the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

In addition to his research, Dr. Kumpas actively contributes to his department and the broader community. His efforts were particularly recognized during his second-year review, which was extremely positive, reflecting his significant contributions and advancing his progress toward tenure. Dr. Kumpas has been a dedicated Research Affiliate at the CHEPS since Fall 2017.



CHEPS Research Affiliates



Brittany E. Bass

University of California-Los Angeles

Brittany Bass received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Irvine, in 2019. She is currently an Economist for the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at the Semel Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to joining UCLA, she was an Assistant Professor of Economics at Sacramento State University. Brittany is a health economist who primarily works on the impact of policies related to substance use disorder treatment on youth and adult health and economic outcomes. Her past research has focused on examining the impact of sex education mandates, maternity leave laws, minimum wages, and technology funding. Brittany's research has appeared in peer-reviewed economics and public policy journals, including the *Economics of Education Review*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *IZA Journal of Labor Policy*, and the *Journal of Population Economics*.



Travis Freidman

U.S. Energy Information Administration

Travis Freidman is an economist at the U.S. Energy Information Administration specializing in applied macroeconomics. His research focuses on the effects of trade policy, both historical and current. His research has been published in the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.



Eduardo Ignacio Polo-Muro

University of the Basque Country

Eduardo Ignacio Polo-Muro is a Postdoctoral Researcher from the Department of Economic Analysis at the University of the Basque Country, currently continuing his postdoc at San Diego State University, where he is also an instructor for the fall semester of 2024. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of the Basque Country in 2021. He was also a fellow researcher in the Department of Economics at the University Pablo de Olavide. He was a postdoctoral visiting scholar at the Department of Economics at the University of California, San Diego, during the period 03/2022-12/2024. He is also a member of the BIRTE research group and WomPower Research project, and his research focuses on understanding how public policies and labor markets are intertwined with different topics such as health, immigration, and consumption.



Tessie Krishna

Rutgers University

Tessie Krishna is a doctoral candidate in Economics, graduating from Rutgers University this summer before joining CHEPS as a post-doctoral affiliate. Her research areas of interest are the economics of crime and risky behaviors, health economics, and labor economics, with a significant amount of her dissertation work focusing on juvenile delinquency and recidivism. During graduate school, she gained additional exposure to research and teaching by working in multiple roles, such as data analyst intern for the Assistant Attorney General of New Jersey Division of Law in the Affirmative Civil Rights & Labor Enforcement Office, research assistant for Dr. Amanda Agan, preceptor for Princeton University, and summer instructor at Rutgers University. Tessie holds a master's degree in economics from both Rutgers University and the University of Texas at Austin, alongside an MBA in Finance & Strategy from the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode.



Drew McNichols

Amazon

Drew McNichols received his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon. He is currently an economist working at Amazon, specializing in labor economics and public economics. His most recent work studies the impact of policies related to gender pay inequality. In other work, he studies topics such as youth criminality and the impacts of marijuana legalization. Drew was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of California San Diego and the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) at San Diego State University.



Caterina Muratori

University of Barcelona

Caterina Muratori is a Postdoctoral Affiliate at the University of Barcelona. Prior to this appointment, she was a CHEPS Postdoctoral Fellow from 2022-2024. Caterina received her Ph.D. from the University of Torino and the University of Reading in 2022. In September, she will join the University of Barcelona as an ERC Advanced Grant Postdoctoral Researcher. She is an applied microeconomist with research interests in the areas of health economics, gender economics, and labor economics. A thread that connects many of the various topics on which she is working is a focus on gender, race, and sexual disparities in health and labor market outcomes.

SDSU MA Student Affiliates



Tony Chuo

M.A. Candidate, Economics, San Diego State University

Tony Chuo received his undergraduate degree in Economics at Texas A&M University. He is currently pursuing his M.A. in Economics at San Diego State University and plans to continue on to a Ph.D. in Economics in 2025. At CHEPS, Tony has honed his empirical research skills while working on the Anti-Vaping Laws and Disparities in Tobacco Use project and helping on many of the Center's ongoing projects. He is excited to participate in more work at CHEPS and would like to continue in the field of health economics. In his coursework, Tony enjoyed learning about hospital surprise billing legislation for his Econometrics term

paper. In his free time, Tony enjoys photography, music, and going on runs (though his knees might not).



Christian Pryfogle

M.A. Candidate, Economics, San Diego State University

Christian graduated from San Diego State University in 2022 with a B.A. in Economics specializing in Quantitative Analysis and a minor in Statistics. Prior to returning to SDSU, he worked as an Underwriting Assistant at a local insurance firm, but he quickly discovered his heart lies in academia. Upon completion of the M.A. program, he hopes to continue to a Ph.D. program in Economics. Christian has developed his knowledge of research design and identification through his efforts at CHEPS, especially while working on the Flavored E-Cigarettes and Teen Vaping project. As a hobby, Christian likes to solve math/coding puzzles.



Sam Robert

B.A. Candidate, Economics, San Diego State University

Sam Robert is currently pursuing a B.A. in Economics with an emphasis in quantitative analysis, graduating in Spring 2025. Her particular interest lies in international policies and their impact on business operations. She hopes to engage in research involving international economic data to broaden her perspective. Through her participation in CHEPS seminars, she's immersed herself in a wide range of economic ideas and papers, enhancing her understanding of statistical complexities. After graduation, she is considering enrolling in a master's program to further explore the methods and applications of Economics.

Doctoral Students



Isaac Baumann

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University

Ph.D. Incoming, Economics, University of Illinois-Chicago

Isaac Baumann is currently a data scientist at the Data Science Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He will join the Ph.D. program in Economics at the University of Illinois-Chicago in Fall 2024. Isaac received an M.A. in Economics from SDSU in 2021 and was a CHEPS student research assistant from 2019-2020. The hands-on research experience he gained at CHEPS inspired his interest in continuing to study economics at the Ph.D. level.



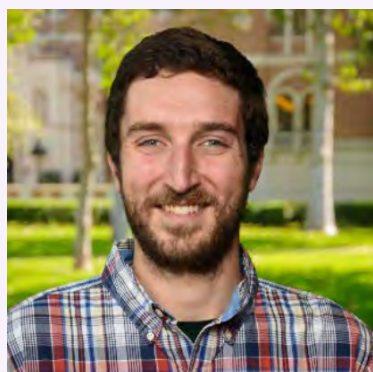
Alona Bilokha

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University

Ph.D. Candidate, Business, Fordham University

Alona Bilokha received her M.A. in Economics from San Diego State University in 2018. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and graduated with Honors in Advanced Business Analysis from Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College (CUNY). She has worked in Strategy and Policy (NYC Department of Education), Financial Strategy (Kenneth Cole), Investment Banking (UBS), and Credit Risk (Société Générale). Her research interests include public economics in the areas of health, education, and labor, among others.

Additional interests include data science, predictive modeling, and machine learning. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Business at Fordham University.



Cal Bryan

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University

Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, Colorado State University

Cal graduated in 2013 with a B.S. degree in Bioenvironmental Sciences at Texas A&M University, where he minored in Economics. After graduation, he worked for a few years as a recreation technician and type 2 wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado. He received his M.A. in Economics from SDSU in 2020. His interests include environmental policy, welfare economics, and the economics of outdoor recreation.

Cal is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Agriculture and Resource Economics at Colorado State University. His research on Tobacco-21 laws, which raise the minimum legal purchasing age for tobacco products to age 21, was recently published in the *Journal of Health Economics*.



Andrew Dickinson

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University
Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, University of Oregon

Andrew Dickinson received his M.A. in Economics at San Diego State University in 2019. He is currently a fifth-year graduate student at the University of Oregon. He is interested in researching a wide range of applied microeconomics, including health and public economics. Upon completion of his degree, he plans to one day become a university professor.



Toshio Ferrazares

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University
Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, UC, Santa Barbara

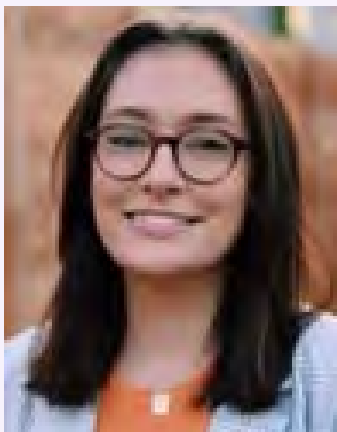
Toshio Ferrazares is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research focuses broadly on Public and Labor Economics with a primary interest in the economics of policing and public safety. His work has appeared in the *Journal of Urban Economics* and he has an ongoing revise-and-resubmit at the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.



Russell Leonard

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University
Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, UC Irvine

Russ received his M.A. in Economics from SDSU and is currently attending the University of California, Irvine, for a Ph.D. in economics. He has an interest in labor, health, and urban economics. His research on teen alcohol use is currently revise-and-resubmit at *Contemporary Economic Policy*.



Alicia Marquez

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University
Ph.D. Candidate, Policy Analysis & Management, Cornell University

Alicia Marquez received her B.S. degree in Environmental Science with a minor in Economics and an M.A. degree in Economics from San Diego State University. She is currently attending the Policy Analysis and Management Ph.D. program at Cornell University. She chose this program because of its interdisciplinary nature, with strong faculty in fields ranging from health economics to demography to environmental economics. Her specific interests include natural resource economics and health economics.



Kyutaro Matsuzawa

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University
Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, University of Oregon

Kyutaro (Kyu) Matsuzawa is a 5th year Ph.D. student at the University of Oregon. His research area focuses on applied microeconomics with broad interests in public and labor and specific interests in health economics and economics of crime. He is currently working on and finishing up four exciting projects. His job market paper examines the impact of limiting the use of pretextual stops on racial discrimination and public safety. One

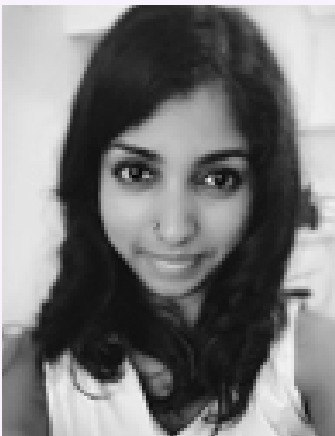
chapter of his dissertation looks at the effect of Oregon's measure 110, which decriminalized the possession of all drugs, on drug overdose rates. His third project looks at the impact of online sports gambling legalization on emotional cues and intimate partner violence. His fourth project looks at the effect of in-person schooling on juvenile violence. He plans to enter the job market next Fall. You can find more about him at <https://qmatsuzawa.netlify.app/>. Kyu's research has appeared in such outlets as the *Journal of Law and Economics* and the *Journal of Human Resources*.



Cameron Milani

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University
Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, Claremont Graduate University

Cameron Milani received his B.A. in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his M.A. in economics from SDSU. He is currently attending the Ph.D. in Economics program at Claremont Graduate University. His interests include labor economics, economic development, and housing markets. He has worked in the Criminal Justice Lab as part of his graduate program in Economics.



Niranjana Prasad

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University
Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, Université catholique de Louvain

Niranjana Prasad is a Ph.D. student at the Université catholique de Louvain, where she is an affiliate at their Center for Operations Research and Econometrics (CORE Institute). She received her MA in Economics from SDSU in 2018. She has previously worked with the World Bank, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), and the Belgian diplomatic mission in India. During her stint with the World Bank, she worked on the Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) and IRMA, on survey design and quantitative research for academic papers. She has also

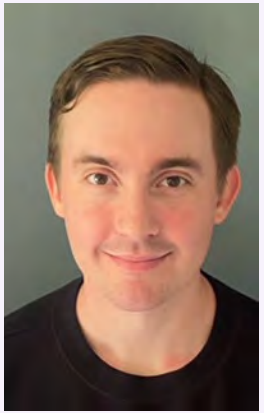
completed a master's in economics and international financial economics from the University of Warwick. She is currently a Ph.D. student at Université catholique de Louvain, and her areas of interest are Applied Econometrics, Health Economics, and Public Policy.



Samuel Safford

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University
Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology, Cornell University

Samuel Safford received his B.A. in Applied Economics from California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA), his Master of Arts in Economics at SDSU, and then his M.A. in Sociology at Michigan State University. He is currently attending Cornell University's Ph.D. program in Sociology. His interests include gender and sexuality, methodology, culture and knowledge, and social policy.



Cooper Smiley

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University
Ph.D. Incoming, Public Administration and Policy, University of Georgia

Cooper Smiley received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Economics from San Diego State University. He is starting his Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy at the University of Georgia in the fall semester and plans to specialize in health policy. His interests include research into substance use disorders, health program planning in developing countries, and partnership development between public and private-sector organizations.



Yiying Yang

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University
Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, Fordham University

Yiying Yang is a first-year Ph.D. student at Fordham University. Her first year has been an intellectually stimulating journey filled with diverse coursework, insightful discussions, and rigorous analytical challenges. Engaging in advanced economic theories, statistical models, and empirical research methodologies has expanded her understanding of economic principles and their real-world applications. Her collaboration with peers and professors on projects, seminars, and research initiatives has not only enhanced her academic prowess but also nurtured a deeper appreciation for the complexities within the field of economics.



Thanh Tam Nguyen

M.A., Economics, San Diego State University
Ph.D., Economics, University of New Hampshire

Tam Nguyen received her Ph.D. in Economics at the University of New Hampshire in September 2023. Her research examines the effects of government policies on labor market outcomes, health outcomes, risky behaviors, and crime. She has published her work in the *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Health Economics*, *Economics and Human Biology*, and *Southern Economic Journal*.

Research Conferences

Society of Economics of Household Meeting

During the summer of 2023, **Joseph J. Sabia** and **Caterina Muratori** traveled to Europe to present their latest studies at international conferences. At the beginning of June, they attended the Society of Economics of the Household Conference (SEHO) in Copenhagen, Denmark, presenting “Does Physician Conscience-Based Refusal to Perform Abortions Increase Self-Induced Abortion? Evidence from Italian Provinces” (**Caterina Muratori**) and “In-Person Schooling and Youth Suicide” (**Joseph Sabia**, joint with **Benjamin Hansen** & **Jessamyn Schaller**).



European Society of Population Economics Meeting

One week later, the two also attended the 36th Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics (ESPE) in Belgrade. **Caterina Muratori** presented the project “The Effect of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Employment and Earnings” (Joint with **Dhaval M. Dave**, **Catherine MacLean**, **Yang Liang**, and **Joseph J. Sabia**) and Professor Sabia chaired



a health policies session which included research on soda taxes, alcohol-related hospital stays, and the Center’s very own work on anti-vaping policies.

Western Economic Association Meeting

Back in the U.S., joined by Dr. Yang Liang, the CHEPS team participated in the 98th Annual Conference of the Western Economic Association International (WEAI) in home sweet home, San Diego. **Caterina Muratori** presented the new joint study with **Dhaval M. Dave**, **Catherine MacLean**, **Yang Liang**, and **Joseph J. Sabia** on “The Effect of ENDS Taxes on Substance Use,” and **Yang Liang** presented “Preferential Liberalization: China’s Foreign Investment Regulation Reform and its Post-WTO-Accession Export Surge” (joint with **Mary Lovely** and **Hongsheng Zhang**) and participated as a discussant in several other international trade related sessions.

European Law and Economics Association Meeting

The EALE conference was held in September 2023 at the Freie Universität for paper and keynote sessions and Humboldt-Universität for the concluding reception and panel. Here, **Joseph J. Sabia** presented “Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence From E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities” (Joint with **Dhaval M. Dave**, **Johanna Catherine Maclean**, **Matthew Braaksma**, and **Yang Liang**). This study is the first to study the effects of ENDS taxes on teenage and young adult drinking and alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

The implications of this paper are important for policymakers to carefully assess the overall costs and benefits of anti-ENDS use efforts, as the study finds that in the United States, a \$1 increase in ENDS taxes reduces teen vaping by 5.4 percentage points (or approximately 24 percent), and two fewer alcohol-related traffic fatalities per state-year for 16-to-20-year-olds.



UCLA Seminar

In October 2023, I, Christian Pryfogle, traveled to Los Angeles to attend a UCLA Health Economics presentation featuring Dr. Sabia. I took a charter bus all the way from Old Town San Diego to LA and a rideshare from the bus terminal to the university (a 6-hour trip; LA traffic is no joke!). The seminar was held at the Fielding School of Public Health, just on the fringes of the campus near Westwood. **Joseph J. Sabia** presented two papers.

The first was “Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence From E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities” (Joint with **Dhaval M. Dave, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Matthew Braaksma, and Yang Liang**). A key conversation with the audience principally covered whether vaping is a compliment or a substitute for both marijuana/cigarette smoking and alcohol drinking. The second paper Dr. Sabia presented was “In-Person Schooling and Youth Suicides: Evidence from School Calendars and Pandemic Era School Closings” (Joint with **Benjamin Hansen and Jessamyn Schaller**), and the attendees were audibly surprised to see the pattern of increases in teen suicide rates during in-person schooling. It was an awesome trip overall to have been able to experience the dynamics of another school’s seminar, see Dr. Sabia present for the first time, and afterward, get to know Gokhan Kumpas while exploring the beautiful UCLA campus at night.



Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Meeting

Early in November, Professors Sabia and Yang, postdoc associate Caterina Muratori, and the Center’s new research assistants, Tony Chuo and Christian Pryfogle, attended the four-day Fall 2023 Annual Public Policy Analysis & Management Conference (APPAM) in Atlanta.

Yang Liang presented his paper on “More Robots, More Crime? Evidence from Industry-Specific Technological Shocks” (joint with **D. Mark Anderson and Joseph Sabia**) in an economics of crime panel on Friday morning. Later that day, **Joseph Sabia** presented “Do Recreational Marijuana Laws Reduce Racial Disparities in Arrests and Health?” (joint with **Zach Fone and Gokhan Kumpas**) in a panel focusing on racial disparities in the criminal justice system. On Saturday, **Caterina Muratori** presented “The Effect of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Employment and Earnings” (Joint with **Dhaval M. Dave, Catherine MacLean, Yang Liang, and Joseph J. Sabia**) in a panel featuring work on marijuana legalization.

APPAM offered many sessions, luncheons, and socials for professionals to meet and present their work. Other sessions attended by the CHEPS affiliates included panels on housing prices, minimum wages, welfare reform, measuring poverty, e-cigarette studies, and many more. For current students and those entering the job market APPAM also hosted a career and Ph.D. fair where participants could meet with representatives of over 50 employers and universities from all over the world. University departments in attendance presented doctoral offerings relating to all things public: policy, affairs, administration, and even health.



Southern Economic Association Conference



Attended by CHEPS Director Dr. Joseph Sabia, myself - Tony Chuo - and hundreds of economists and Ph.D. students, this year's Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting held in mid-November was a great weekend of research presentation and exposure to outside work. With session topics ranging from financial crime recidivism to corruption and inequality to the econometrics of triple differences

extremely wide areas of study possible within economics. There was work presented by **Brandyn Churchill** (joint with **Joseph Sabia**) on the effectiveness of anti-bullying-laws on teen mental health, by Ph.D. student **Alejandro Abarca** on hot spot policing in Costa Rica, and by **Kasey Buckles** on the extensive Census Tree Project.



Eastern Economics Association Conference

In late February 2023, Tony Chuo and Christian Pryfogle, the Center's predoc students, made the trip to Boston, Massachusetts, as attendees of the 50th annual Eastern Economic Association conference. On arrival, the two were greeted by casual sub-freezing temperatures and 20 mile an hour winds, before realizing they were 24 hours early. They made the most of their free time, sitting in on multiple economics courses from professors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, then making the short trip to the Harvard University campus.



The conferences themselves were filled with extremely interesting research. Presentation sessions were a bit smaller, which allowed for lots of useful interactions between audience members and presenters. Christian really enjoyed the macroeconomic sessions that utilized well-constructed graphs to display coefficients rather than the traditional tabled presentation of estimates. Tony found the sessions on professional sports and the recently opened gambling markets to be most interesting – it was his first exposure to sports economics. The trip provided another great experience inside the economic profession, and the duo returned to San Diego eager to put their knowledge to work.

CHEPS Publications 2023-2024

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Anderson, D., Mark, Hao Fe, Yang Liang, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. "Recreational Marijuana Laws and Teen Marijuana Use, 1993-2021," Forthcoming in *JAMA Psychiatry*, Available here: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2818043>

Anderson, D. Mark, Yang Liang, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. "Mandatory Seatbelt Laws and Traffic Fatalities: A Reassessment," *Journal of Applied Econometrics* 39(3): 513-521

Arnold, Michelle L., Brianna J. Heslin, Madison Dowdy, Stacie P. Kershner, Serena Phillips, Brandy J. Lipton, Michael F. Pesko. 2023. "Longitudinal policy surveillance of private insurance hearing aid mandates in the US, 1997-2022". *American Journal of Public Health*.

Beller, Andrea H., Ana Fava, Shoshana Grossbard, and Marouane Idmansour. 2023. "Women, Economics, and Household Economics: The Relevance of Workshops founded by Nobel Laureate Gary Becker, and of Jacob Mincer," Forthcoming, *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*.

Boudreaux, Michel, Jun Chu, Brandy J. Lipton. 2023. "School-based health centers, access to care, and income-based disparities," *JAMA Network Open* 6(9): e2334532.

Calvi, Rossella, Jacob Penglase, Denni Tommasi, and Alexander Wolf. 2023. "The More the Poorer? Resource Sharing and Scale Economies in Large Families," *Journal of Development Economics*.

Cesur, Resul, Joseph J. Sabia, and W. David Bradford. 2024. "Did the War on Terror Ignite a Veteran Opioid Epidemic?" Forthcoming, *Health Economics*.

Dave, Dhaval, Andrew Friedson, Kyutaro Matsuzawa, Joseph J. Sabia, and Samuel Safford. 2024. "Black Lives Matter Protests and Risk Avoidance: The Case of Civil Unrest During a Pandemic," Forthcoming, *Journal of Human Resources*.

Dave, Dhaval M., Ling Li, Yang Liang, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. "Recreational Marijuana Legalization and Workplace Injuries Among Younger Workers," *JAMA Health Forum*. 5(2): e235438.

Dave, Dhaval, Yang Liang, Michael Pesko, Serena Phillips, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2023. "Have Recreational Marijuana Laws Undermined Public Health Progress on Adult Tobacco Use?" *Journal of Health Economics* 90: 102756.

Fone, Zach, Joseph J. Sabia, and Resul Cesur. 2023. "The Unintended Effects of Minimum Wage Increases on Crime," *Journal of Public Economics* 219: 104780.

Gibbons, J., Beck, A. N., Thomas, K. & Finch, B.K. 2024. "Patterns of Force: The Relationship Between Officer-Involved Homicides of Black and Hispanic Citizens and Metropolitan Residential Segregation." Conditional Acceptance, *Urban Affairs*.

Grossbard, Shoshana. 2024. "Household Consumption," in *Encyclopedia of Consumption* Edited by José M. Labeaga and José Alberto Molina. Edward Elgar Forthcoming 2024-25.

Grossbard, Shoshana. 2024. Entry on Economics of the Household, for The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics, edited by Matías Vernengo, Esteban Pérez Caldentey and J. Barkley Rosser Jr., Forthcoming.

Hakak, Lorena, and Shoshana Grossbard. 2023. "A Model of Demand for Health and Caregiving Incorporating Marriage Markets," *Papers and Proceedings, American Economic Review*, 113:623–626.

Hansen, Benjamin, Drew McNichols, Joseph J. Sabia, and Calvin Bryan. 2023. "Do Tobacco-21 Laws Work?" *Journal of Health Economics* 92: 102818.

Hansen, Benjamin, Jessamyn Schaller, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. "In-Person Schooling and Youth Suicides: Evidence from School Calendars and Pandemic Era School Closings," *Journal of Human Resources* 59(S): S227-S255.

Hansen, Benjamin, Jessamyn Schaller, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. "Schools, Job Flexibility, and Married Women's Labor Supply: New Evidence from the COVID-19 Pandemic," Forthcoming, *Journal of Human Resources*.

Lansing, Amy E., Jane Park, Audrey N. Beck. 2023. Cumulative Trauma, Adversity and Loss among Juvenile Justice Involved Girls: Implications for Health Disparities. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. Volume 00, 1-16. <http://doi.org/10.1002/jts.22981> (IF=1.56)

Liang, Yang, Mary E. Lovely, and Hongsheng Zhang. 2024. "Targeted Liberalization: China's Foreign Investment Regulation Reform and Its Post-WTO-Accession Export Surge," *Review of International Economics*.

Lipton, Brandy J., Michael F. Pesko. 2023. "State telemedicine coverage requirement and telemedicine use, 2013-2019," *Health Services Research* 8(5):988-998.

Matsuzawa, Kyutaro. 2024. "The Deterrent Effect of Targeted and Salient Police Enforcement: Evidence from DUI Checkpoint Bans," *Journal of Law and Economics*.

McNichols, Drew, Joseph J. Sabia, and Gokhan Kumpas. 2024. "Did Expanding Sports Opportunities for Women Reduce Crime? Evidence from a Natural Experiment," Forthcoming, *Journal of Human Resources*.

Sabia, Joseph J., Dhaval Dave, Fawaz Altaiohi, and Daniel I. Rees. 2024. "The Effects of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Drug Use and Crime," Forthcoming, *Journal of Public Economics*.

Stitt, Brittney, Tracy L. Finlayson, Brandy J. Lipton. 2023. "Aging out of dependent coverage and health insurance trends, 2014-2019," *Academic Pediatrics* 4:S1876-2859(23)00373-X.

Working Papers with Revise and Resubmit

Burkhauser, Richard, Drew McNichols, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. "Minimum Wages & Poverty: New Evidence from Dynamic Difference-in-Differences Estimates," Revise-and-Resubmit, *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

Caetano, Carolina, Gregorio Caetano, Hao T. Fe, and Eric Nielsen. "A Dummy Test of Identification in Models with Bunching," Revise & Resubmit, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*.

Dave, Dhaval, Yang Liang, Caterina Muratori, Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. "The Effects of Recreational Marijuana Laws on Employment and Earnings," Revise-and-Resubmit, *Journal of Population Economics*.

Dodini, Samuel, Kjell Salvanes, Alexander Willén, and Julia Zhu. 2024. "The Career Effects of Union Membership," Revise & Resubmit, *American Economic Review*.

Fe, Hao T., Yang Liang, and Mary E. Lovely. 2024. "Follow Thy Neighbor: The Role of First Exporters," Revise-and-Resubmit, *Journal of Urban Economics*.

Ferrazares, Toshio, Joseph J. Sabia, and D. Mark Anderson. 2024. "Have U.S. Gun Buyback Programs Misfired?" Revise-and-Resubmit, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

Fone, Zach, Gokhan Kumpas, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. "Recreational Marijuana Laws and Racial Disparities in Arrests, Psychological Health, and Mortality," Revise & Resubmit, *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Leonard, Russell and Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. "Vertical ID Laws, Youth Smoking, and Teen Drinking," Revise-and-Resubmit, *Contemporary Economic Policy*.

Li, Ling, and Yang Liang. 2024. "Can Exports Be Pain Relievers? The Effect of Exports on Workplace Safety and Health," Revise-and-Resubmit, *Review of International Economics*.

Lipton, Brandy J., Garcia JG, Boudreaux MH, Azatyan P, McInerney M. 2024. "Most state Medicaid programs cover routine eye exams for adults, but coverage of other routine vision services varies". Revise-and-Resubmit, *Health Affairs*.

Matsuzawa, Kyutaro, Daniel I. Rees, Joseph J. Sabia, and Rebecca Margolit. 2024. "Minimum Wages and Teen Fertility: A Reconsideration," Revise-and-Resubmit, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*.

Muratori, Caterina. 2024. "Is TRAP a Trap? The Impact of Abortion Access on Violence Against Women," Revise-and-Resubmit, *Journal of Human Resources*.

Muratori, Caterina and Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. "The Effects of Anti-Bullying Laws on Youth Risky Health Behaviors," Revise-and-Resubmit, *Journal of Population Economics*.

Sabia, Joseph J. and William Skimmyhorn. 2023. "How Do Combat Deployments Affect Veterans' Health and Labor Market Outcomes? Evidence from the U.S. Army," Revise-and-Resubmit, *Journal of Human Resources*.

Yang, R., Beck, A.N., & Lansing, A. E. 2024. "Examining Sexual Abuse, Commercial Sexual Exploitation, and Cumulative Adversity among Sexually-Diverse Girls in the Juvenile Justice System." Revise-and-Resubmit, *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*.

Zhu, Julia, Nancy Chau, Amanda Rodewald, and Filiz Garip. 2024. "Weather Deviations in Mexico Linked to Undocumented U.S. Migration and its Duration," Revise-and-Resubmit, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*.

Zhu, Julia. "Comparative Immigration Policies and the Resource Effects of International Students in U.S. Higher Education," Reject-and-Resubmit, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.

Released Working Papers

Courtemanche, Charles J., Yang Liang, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Caterina Muratori, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. "Do E-Cigarette Retail Licensure Laws Reduce Tobacco Use?" NBER Working Paper No. 32444.

Dave, Dhaval M., Yang Liang, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Joseph J. Sabia, and Matthew Braaksma. 2024. "Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence from E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities," NBER Working Paper No. 30670.

Dave, Dhaval, Yang Liang, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Caterina Muratori, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. "The Effect of E-cigarette Taxes on Substance Use". NBER Working Paper No. 32302.

Monras, Joan, Eduardo Polo-Muro, Javier Vázquez-Grenno. 2023 "Labor Market Stability and Fertility Decisions," Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Working Paper 2023-36. <https://doi.org/10.24148/wp2023-36>



Notable Affiliate Grants

Joseph J. Sabia

Global Action to End Smoking

Assessing the Efficacy of Increasing Access to Tobacco Harm Reduction Products: New Evidence on Intended and Unintended Effects. (March 2024–March 2027)

Total Grant Award: \$1,647,714

Social Security Administration

The Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic Shocks on OASI, SSI, and SSDI Benefit Receipt. (April 2024–March 2025)

Total Budget: \$209,997

Social Security Administration

Summer Research Fellowships in SSA Policy. (March 2024–September 2024) Total Budget: \$95,296

Charles Koch Foundation

Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies Applied Microeconomics Projects. (June 2022–December 2024)

Total Budget: \$442,500



Brandy Lipton

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

Impact of Medicaid Pregnancy Dental Benefits on Dental Care Access among Pregnant People and Young Children (April 2024–March 2028)

Total Budget: \$1.82 million

National Eye Institute (NEI), National Institutes of Health. *Impact of Routine Eye Care Coverage on Access to Eye Care and Fall-related Outcomes among Low-income Medicare Enrollees (R01 EY033746).* (June 2022–May 2026)

Total Budget: \$2.00 million

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), National Institutes of Health. *Effect of Hearing Aid Insurance Coverage Requirements for Adults on Utilization* (April 2022–March 2026)

Total Budget: \$275,154

CHEPS Website and Social Media

Please learn more about CHEPS at our website: cheps.sdsu.edu
 Twitter: @SDSUCHEPS

Welcome from the Director

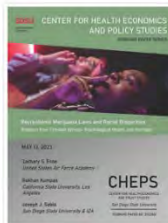
The Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) is an interdisciplinary research center that supports impactful, policy relevant scholarship in the areas of health economics and social policy analysis. Housed in the College of Arts & Letters, CHEPS brings together faculty and graduate students engaged in complementary research in the areas of national defense policy, economic demography, the economics of crime and punishment, and the economics of risky health behaviors. [Read more>>](#)



Read the [CHEPS Magazine 2023](#) and [Mid-Year Report 2023-2024](#)

Past issues of the magazine: [2022](#) | [2021](#) | [2020](#) | [2019](#) | [2018](#)

CHEPS Pioneering Research



[Recreational Marijuana Laws and Racial Disparities: Evidence from Criminal Arrests, Psychological Health, and Mortality](#)



[Leadership & Gender Composition in Managerial Positions: Evidence from the Brazilian Public Sector](#)



[Follow Thy Neighbor: The Role of First Exporters](#)



[Preferential Liberalization: China's Foreign Investment Regulation Reform and its Post-WTO-Accession Export Surge](#)



CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS & POLICY STUDIES

San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92193-4485
Email: jsabia.cheps@gmail.com
Twitter: @SDSUCHEPS



CHEPS