

CHEPS

CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS AND POLICY STUDIES
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY



INSIDE:
**A Decade of Applied Microeconomics and Policy Research:
Celebrating World Class Mentoring of Future Leaders in Economics**

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends of CHEPS:

My older and wiser mentors often told me that as I aged, I would experience time seeming to accelerate at an increasing rate. This has certainly been true for me since I helped to found the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies (CHEPS). We are now entering our 10th year of collaboration with the Department of Economics, mentoring Predoctoral Students, Doctoral Students, and Postdoctoral Fellows in applied microeconomic, policy-relevant research. I am grateful for all the hard work our team has done to build our national and international reputation. I am especially thrilled with the addition of CHEPS Chief of Staff, Kyu Matsuzawa, who is bringing his externally funded research agenda on the economics of crime to the Center's research portfolio.

As has become increasingly common, over the last year, Center affiliates attained publications in leading peer-reviewed journals in economics, including the *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, the *Journal of Human Resources*, the *Journal of Urban Economics*, the *Journal of Health Economics*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Canadian Journal of Economics*, and the *Journal of Public Economics*. We have also continued our publication of working papers in the prominent National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) working paper series and the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA) discussion paper series.

We congratulate two of the Center's most recent fellows who are leaving us this year: Joaquin Arellanes, who completed his MS degree in Economics, will be joining the University of Georgia to pursue his PhD in Public Policy; and Tessie Krishna, our Postdoctoral Fellow, who will be joining Montclair State University, a public research university in New Jersey, where she will continue her work on the economics of risky health behaviors and crime.





CHEPS is grateful for ongoing external grant support from Global Action to End Smoking, the James Hervey Johnson Charitable Educational Trust, Arnold Ventures, the Charles Koch Foundation, the Division of Research and Innovation at San Diego State University, and the College of Arts & Letters for supporting our scholarship. We could not do it without their support for our students, postdocs, faculty, and research projects.

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:

- **227 Research Seminars** have been held by researchers visiting from institutions such as the University of Michigan, Columbia University, Cornell University, Yale University, Dartmouth College, the University of Pennsylvania, Syracuse University, and the University of Texas at Austin.
- **45 Funded Students**: graduate students, undergraduate students, and postdoctoral fellows have received funding for research-related activities.
- **22 Students Accepted to PhD programs** at such institutions as Cornell University, the University of Texas-Austin, University of Georgia, 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, the University of California-Davis, Peking University, the University of Georgia, and Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium).
- **126 peer-reviewed publications** in high-quality economics journals such as the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Economic Journal*, *Canadian Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, and the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

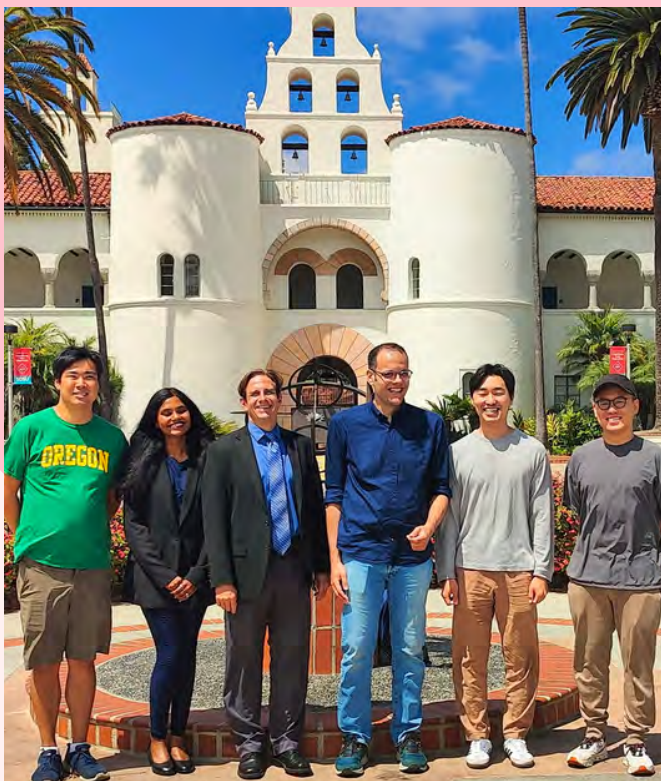
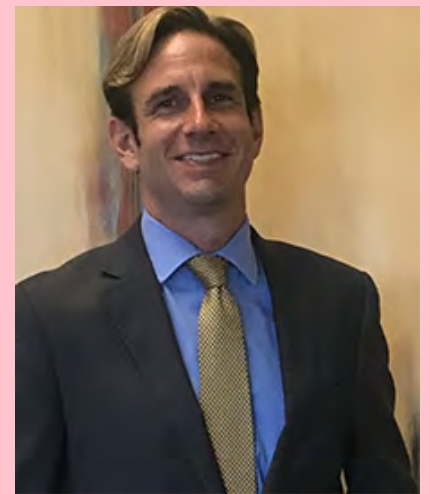
- **42 working papers** published by the NBER.
- **81 academic research conferences and workshops** at which CHEPS Affiliates have presented their cutting-edge scholarship.

I hope you will consider donating to our Center and joining us each Thursday afternoon at 3:30 PM PT via Zoom (or in person in the Arts and Letters Building, Room 660, if you are on the San Diego State campus) for our 10th year of CHEPS seminars. Enjoy the 2026-27 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

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New CHEPS Research: Featured Working Papers

The Long-Run Effects of the Affordable Care Act: Evidence from a Partially Pre-Committed Research Design Over the COVID-19 Recession and Recovery

*(National Bureau of Economic Research
Working Paper No. 34805)*

A new study, released in May 2026 as an NBER Working Paper by **Jeffrey Clemens**, **Anwita Mahajan**, and **Joseph J. Sabia**, provides fresh evidence on the long-run effects of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), leveraging a partially pre-committed research design that extends earlier short-run analyses into the COVID-19 recession and recovery period.

Contrary to expectations that pandemic-related labor market disruptions would amplify the ACA's impacts, the authors find that its effects on insurance coverage and employment remained largely stable over time. Long-run changes in employment and employer-sponsored coverage are modest and significantly smaller than initially projected, suggesting that early concerns about large labor market distortions may have been overstated.

Beyond its substantive findings, the study also highlights the value of partially pre-committed research designs in producing credible long-term policy evaluations while minimizing risks of specification searching.

School Vaping Bans and Youth E-Cigarette Use

(National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 34805)

This study by **Dhaval M. Dave**, **Jooyoung Kim**, **Nikolaos Prodrromidis**, and **Joseph J. Sabia** examines whether school-based vaping restrictions reduce youth use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). As 40 states and the District of Columbia have implemented bans on vaping in K-12 schools, the authors use multiple nationally representative datasets and a generalized difference-in-differences approach to evaluate their impact. The findings show little evidence that these school-specific restrictions meaningfully reduce youth vaping, ruling out declines larger than 3.5 percent. Descriptive patterns suggest that students may instead adapt by switching to less detectable devices or vaping in concealed locations such as bathrooms and locker rooms.

In contrast, the study finds that broader, comprehensive vaping restrictions—extending beyond schools to workplaces, restaurants, and drinking establishments—are associated with a 1.5–2.6 percentage-point reduction in teen vaping, particularly by reducing initiation. These results indicate that while school-only policies may have limited effectiveness, more comprehensive, place-based restrictions that raise the overall cost of vaping are more successful in curbing youth use.



Do Informal Social Markets and Online Sellers Help Youth to Avoid E-Cigarette Taxation

(National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 34880)

This study by **Chad D. Cotti, Dhaval M. Dave, Tessie Krishna, Erik T. Nesson,** and **Joseph J. Sabia** examines how electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) taxes influence not only youth vaping behavior but also how young people obtain e-cigarettes. Because more than 70 percent of underage users acquire vapes through social sources—such as friends, family, or acquaintances—rather than direct retail purchases, the effectiveness of taxation may be limited through these informal channels. Using data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) and a difference-in-differences framework, the authors analyze how ENDS taxes affect both vaping prevalence and sourcing patterns among youth.

The findings show that ENDS taxes do reduce the likelihood of youth vaping and significantly decrease the probability that youths obtain e-cigarettes directly from stores. These results are supported by a range of robustness checks and alternative data sources. The authors suggest that taxes may also indirectly affect social supply channels, as third-party sellers or lenders may raise prices or become less willing to share devices when taxes increase. Together, the evidence indicates that while informal access remains important, ENDS taxation can still meaningfully reduce youth vaping through both direct and indirect mechanisms.



Do Vaping Taxes Tip the Scale?

(National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 33890)

With obesity affecting nearly three in four U.S. adults and about one in three children, researchers continue to explore policy approaches to address this ongoing public health challenge. One area of interest is the link between nicotine use and body weight. While nicotine can suppress appetite, traditional smoking carries serious health risks. The rise of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), such as e-cigarettes, has offered a potentially less harmful alternative, but also raised concerns about youth use, leading many states to impose taxes on these products. A recent study by **Charles Courtemanche, Yang Liang, Anthony Chuo, Tessie Krishna, and Joseph J. Sabia** investigates whether such taxes might have unintended consequences for weight outcomes.

Using nationally representative data from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), the researchers find that higher ENDS taxes are not associated with increased obesity. Instead, they are linked to modest but statistically significant reductions in body weight, particularly among females. A one-dollar-per-milliliter tax increase corresponds to a 1–2 percentage-point decline in obesity among female youth, with smaller but meaningful effects among adult women. At the same time, results for males are less pronounced and not statistically significant. The authors suggest these patterns may reflect behavioral shifts, including substitution toward cigarettes and reductions in alcohol and marijuana use, both of which are often associated with poorer diet and weight gain.



The Effect of Paid Sick Leave Mandates on Individuals with Disabilities: Evidence from Social Security Disability Claims

(National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 33603)

This study by **Anwar Assamidanov, Dhaval M. Dave, Jooyoung Kim, Brandy Lipton, Xuechao Qian, and Joseph J. Sabia** examines the broader impacts of paid sick leave mandates (PSLs), now adopted in 18 states and the District of Columbia. While these policies are designed to support workers facing short-term health needs, the authors explore their effects on participation in federal disability programs—specifically Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)—as well as health outcomes among individuals with disabilities.

The findings suggest that PSL adoption is associated with a 6–9 percent increase in initial applications for SSI and combined SSI/SSDI benefits, with the largest effects observed among children under 18. This increase in applications appears to translate into more beneficiaries, potentially driven by greater availability of informal caregiving and increased healthcare utilization, both of which may lower barriers to applying for assistance. While there is limited evidence of reductions in work hours—primarily among spouses of individuals with disabilities—the study also documents modest improvements in health outcomes for both children and adults with disabilities, highlighting important downstream benefits of expanded access to paid leave.



Health Insurance Protections and Ex Ante Moral Hazard in Risky Health Behaviors

(National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 33935)

This study by **Bariş K. Yörük, Joseph J. Sabia, Tessie Krishna, and Dhaval M. Dave** examines the effects of repealing alcohol and substance use “exclusion provisions,” which had historically allowed private insurers to deny coverage for medical claims related to intoxication. While these provisions were intended to deter risky behavior, they may have also discouraged healthcare providers from screening for substance use. In response, 16 states and the District of Columbia adopted policies prohibiting such denials (PDHIAs). The authors analyze how these reforms have shaped substance use and related social outcomes.

Drawing on multiple national data sources—including crime reports, traffic fatality records, health surveys, and treatment data—the study finds little evidence that PDHIAs increased risky behavior through moral hazard. Instead, the results point to modest improvements, including reductions in certain criminal arrests, declines in drunk driving, and lower alcohol use. One possible explanation is that removing financial penalties encourages providers to more actively identify and refer patients for treatment. Importantly, the study also finds no significant effects on private insurance coverage or premiums, suggesting that these reforms did not disrupt broader insurance markets.



Did Robots Cause a Crime Wave?

(National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 33603)

In one of the first large-scale U.S. studies linking automation to public safety, **Yang Liang** and **Joseph J. Sabia** of San Diego State University — along with **Dhaval M. Dave** from Bentley University — examine a less-discussed consequence of technological progress: its potential impact on crime. Focusing on the spread of industrial robotics in manufacturing, the researchers use a novel approach that connects U.S. county-level automation exposure to robotics adoption in European industries, allowing them to isolate plausibly external shifts in local labor demand. Their analysis shows that each additional robot per 1,000 workers is associated with a 4–5 percent increase in property crime arrests, particularly for theft and motor vehicle offenses, with no comparable rise in violent crime.

The findings point to labor market disruptions as a key mechanism. Robotics adoption appears to have displaced lower-skilled workers and reduced earnings, especially during the rapid expansion of automation in the early 2000s. These economic shocks may have contributed to increased incentives for property-related offenses. The authors estimate that the resulting rise in crime imposed over \$300 million in additional social costs between 2004 and 2010. While the study does not argue against technological advancement, it highlights the uneven short-run impacts of automation and underscores the importance of policies that support affected workers. As robotics and artificial intelligence continue to reshape the economy, the research suggests that managing these transitions thoughtfully will be critical to mitigating unintended social consequences.



In-Person Schooling and Juvenile Violence

(National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 33317)

A study by **Benjamin Hansen**, **Kyutaro Matsuzawa**, and **Joseph J. Sabia** examines the relationship between in-person schooling and juvenile violence, shedding light on the potential social cost of traditional education settings. Drawing on four national data sources and multiple identification strategies, the authors use anonymized smartphone data to construct a proxy for in-person school attendance and exploit variation in school calendars—particularly the disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their findings indicate that in-person schooling is associated with a substantial 28 percent increase in juvenile violent crime. At the same time, no similar effect is observed among young adults, supporting a causal interpretation.

The study suggests that peer interactions play a key role in driving these outcomes. Effects are most pronounced in larger schools and in areas with weaker anti-bullying policies, pointing to the importance of student concentration and peer dynamics. Back-of-the-envelope estimates indicate that, compared to school closures, in-person schooling may generate approximately \$233 million in monthly violent crime costs. While the broader benefits of schooling remain well established, the findings highlight the need for policies that address negative peer effects and improve school environments alongside efforts to expand educational access.



Do Minimum Wages Really Reduce Deaths of Despair?

New Evidence from Mortality Data

Minimum wages are often increased in hopes of improving the well-being of low-wage workers, but their effects on serious public health outcomes remain unclear. In this study, we examine whether raising the minimum wage reduces “deaths of despair” — suicides, drug-related deaths, and alcohol-related deaths. This question matters because these deaths have been linked to long-run economic hardship, especially among less educated adults. Earlier studies reported that higher minimum wages were associated with fewer suicides, but many of those estimates relied on standard two-way fixed effects models that can be misleading when policy effects differ across states or unfold over time. To address this concern, **Jooyoung Kim**, **Daniel Rees**, and **Joseph J. Sabia** use a stacked difference-in-differences approach that is better suited to the timing and variation of state minimum wage changes.

They combine state-level mortality data from 2000 to 2023 with information on statutory minimum wage increases. This period covers both substantial policy variation and much of the modern opioid epidemic. Across a wide range of difference-in-differences specifications, they find little evidence that raising the minimum wage reduces suicides or drug-related deaths among adults with a high school degree or less. Their estimates are precise enough to rule out sizable protective effects. These findings are robust to alternative empirical approaches, different definitions of large minimum wage increases, alternative time periods, and analyses focused on demographic subgroups. Overall, the results suggest that minimum wage increases alone are unlikely to meaningfully reduce deaths of despair.



Second Chances: Florida's Juvenile Civil Citation Program

A study by **Tessie Krishna** examines whether diverting first-time juvenile offenders away from formal contact with the justice system reduces their likelihood of reoffending. Drawing on court records from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice covering juveniles aged 10 to 16 from 2000 to 2018, the study exploits the staggered rollout of Florida's Juvenile Civil Citation Program across counties, using difference-in-differences and instrumental variables estimators to identify causal effects. Rather than arresting first-time misdemeanants, the program allows officers to issue a civil citation requiring community service, intervention services, and one year crime-free, after which the citation record is cleared, and there is no criminal history. The findings indicate a 5 to 40 percent decline in recidivism among affected juveniles, with citation recipients 32 to 38 percent less likely to reoffend than eligible peers who did not receive one.

Effects are largest where implementation is most consistent, with Miami-Dade County, where roughly 80 percent of eligible juveniles receive citations, outperforming counties with lower uptake rates. The findings also reveal a net-widening concern; total juvenile contacts with the justice system increased in the first two years following program adoption before eventually declining, suggesting the citation option may draw additional youth into formal contact who might otherwise have faced none. Despite this, lower recidivism rates persist across all treated groups, making a substantive case for early diversion as an effective and cost-efficient alternative to arrest for first-time juvenile misdemeanants.



Do Marijuana Legalization Laws Fuel Youth Vaping? New Evidence from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System

The rapid spread of youth e-cigarette use in the 2010s coincided with a wave of state-level recreational marijuana legalization, raising an urgent public health question: Did recreational marijuana laws contribute to the vaping surge among teenagers? A new working paper by **Joaquin Arellanes**, **Dhaval Dave**, **Tessie Krishna**, and **Joseph J. Sabia** is among the first to study this health economics question. Drawing on nationally representative survey data from adolescents across 2013–2023, the study employs difference-in-differences methods to estimate whether recreational marijuana laws (RMLs) increased youth use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). Contrary to widespread concern, the findings show that RMLs did not drive up youth vaping. In fact, among male adolescents, states that adopted RMLs saw statistically significant declines in e-cigarette use of approximately 2.7 percentage points, or nearly 13 percent, two or more years after the laws took effect. Reductions in daily vaping were even more pronounced in relative terms.

The explanation lies in how legalization reshapes the drug market. Rather than expanding youth access, RMLs appear to contract illicit marijuana markets by introducing legal retail competition, which reduces informal supply channels that youth rely on. Consistent with this, the paper also documents meaningful declines in youth marijuana use following RML adoption, a finding that helps reconcile the results with prior evidence that marijuana and e-cigarettes function as economic complements among teenagers. The findings carry important implications for policymakers. Marijuana and tobacco control strategies are more effective when designed together, and legalization's downstream effects on youth substance use may be more complex and more encouraging than commonly assumed.



E-Cigarette Licensure Laws and Racial Disparities in Teenage Vaping

Longstanding racial disparities in tobacco-related harm, together with the tobacco industry's history of targeting Black communities, make it important to understand whether newer nicotine-control policies affect groups differently. E-cigarettes have complicated this question. Although they are generally less harmful than combustible cigarettes and may offer harm-reduction benefits for adult smokers, they have also become a major source of nicotine exposure among adolescents. One increasingly common policy response has been e-cigarette retail licensure laws (ERLLs), which require vendors to obtain a state license to sell e-cigarettes and are intended to strengthen enforcement of existing sales regulations. Prior research finds little evidence that these laws reduce youth vaping overall, but average effects may mask important differences across groups.

Using 2015–2023 State Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System data and a generalized difference-in-differences approach, **Dhaval Dave**, **Jooyoung Kim**, and **Joseph J. Sabia** provide new evidence on whether ERLLs have differential effects on youth vaping by race. They find that ERLL adoption is associated with a 2-3 percentage-point reduction in past-month nicotine vaping among Black youths, or about 20 percent relative to the pre-policy mean, but no statistically significant or economically meaningful effect among White youths. The effects are concentrated in stricter ERLLs that impose larger penalties and allow license suspension or revocation. They also find no evidence that these laws increase Black youths' use of combustible cigarettes or cigars. Descriptive evidence suggests that the larger effects for Black youths may reflect greater reductions in direct retail access and stronger enforcement responses in Black communities. Overall, the results suggest that stronger ERLLs can reduce youth vaping among Black youths without increasing combustible tobacco use.



Do Statewide Pretextual Stop Restrictions Work? New Evidence from California

This research, funded by Arnold Ventures, examines the impact of California's Assembly Bill (AB) 2773, a policy designed to reduce pretextual traffic stops and address racial disparities in policing. Conducted by **Kyu Matsuzawa** of San Diego State University, the study focuses on pretextual stops—traffic stops initiated for minor violations as a way to investigate unrelated criminal activity. The law requires officers to document the reason for each stop both verbally and in writing, aiming to increase transparency and accountability. Using comprehensive administrative data on traffic stops and a range of econometric approaches, the study evaluates whether the policy achieved its intended objectives.

The findings point to modest changes in policing behavior but limited broader impacts. While AB 2773 led to a small reduction in stops associated with minor violations—often used as a proxy for pretextual enforcement—this decline did not translate into measurable improvements in racial disparities or public safety outcomes. The results suggest that while documentation requirements may influence behavior at the margin, they may be insufficient on their own to address deeper structural issues in policing or to produce meaningful changes in safety.



Accepted Publication and Revise-and-Resubmit Highlights

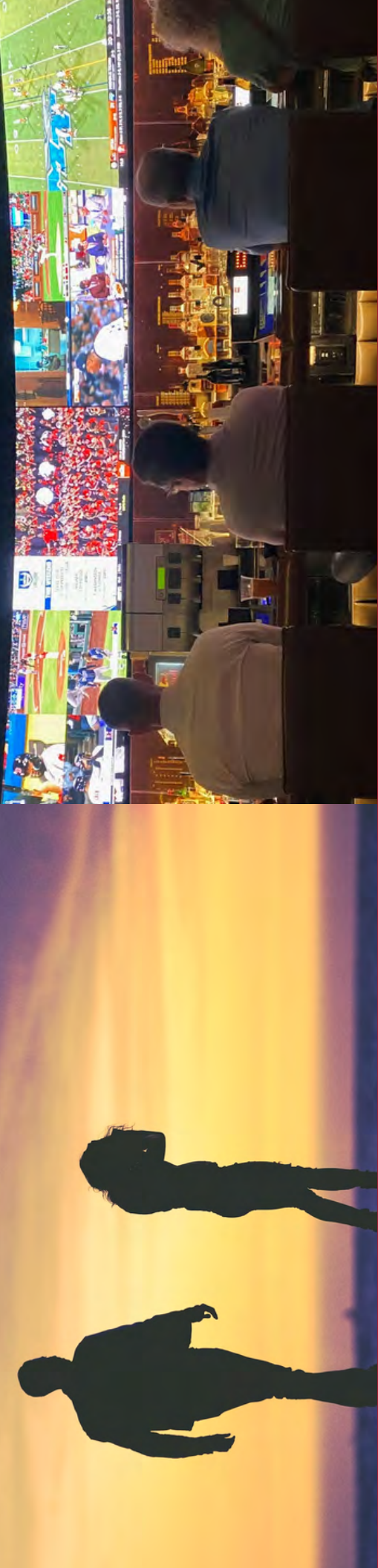


School Disruptions and Parental Labor Supply: Evidence from Canadian Panel Data

Journal of Labor Economics
(Accepted)

A new study forthcoming in the *Journal of Labor Economics* by **Dean R. Lillard, Joseph J. Sabia, Zihao Sheng**, and **Casey Warman** examines how COVID-19–related school closures affected the labor supply of Canadian parents.

Using newly assembled data on school disruptions across 141 cities combined with individual-level panel data from the Labour Force Survey, the authors find that reduced access to in-person schooling led to a roughly 2 percentage-point decline in employment among partnered mothers of school-aged children. In contrast, fathers experienced much smaller labor market effects, with noticeable impacts concentrated among single fathers. Additional evidence from administrative tax data suggests that school closures also increased reliance on pandemic-related public benefits, particularly among single-parent households, highlighting the unequal burdens of caregiving disruptions during the pandemic.



Sports Betting Legalization Amplifies Emotional Cues & Intimate Partner Violence

Review of Economics and Statistics
(Accepted)

The rapid expansion of legal sports betting has raised concerns about its broader social consequences, particularly in relation to emotional behavior and household dynamics. In this paper, **Emily Arnesen** and **Kyutaro Matsuzawa** examine whether sports betting legalization intensifies emotional responses to game outcomes and, in turn, affects rates of intimate partner violence (IPV).

This study exploits variation in the timing of sports betting legalization across jurisdictions, combined with detailed data on reported IPV incidents and professional sports outcomes. Their empirical strategy links unexpected game results (such as upset losses) to changes in IPV, comparing periods and locations before and after legalization. This approach isolates how increased financial stakes from betting amplify emotional reactions to wins and losses.

The findings show that legalization significantly strengthens the relationship between emotionally salient game outcomes and IPV. In particular, losses – especially unexpected ones – lead to larger increases in IPV incidents in areas where sports betting is legal, consistent with heightened emotional and financial stress. The effects are concentrated around major sporting events and are more pronounced for games with greater local interest. The results suggest that legal access to betting magnifies the emotional impact of sports outcomes, translating into harmful spillovers within households. The paper highlights a previously underexplored externality of gambling policy, showing that increased market access can have unintended consequences beyond financial risk. Overall, the study contributes to the literature on behavioral responses to economic incentives and emotional shocks, and it underscores the importance of considering social and public health implications when designing and regulating gambling markets.

Curbing Pretextual Stops: Police Efficiency and Racial Disparities

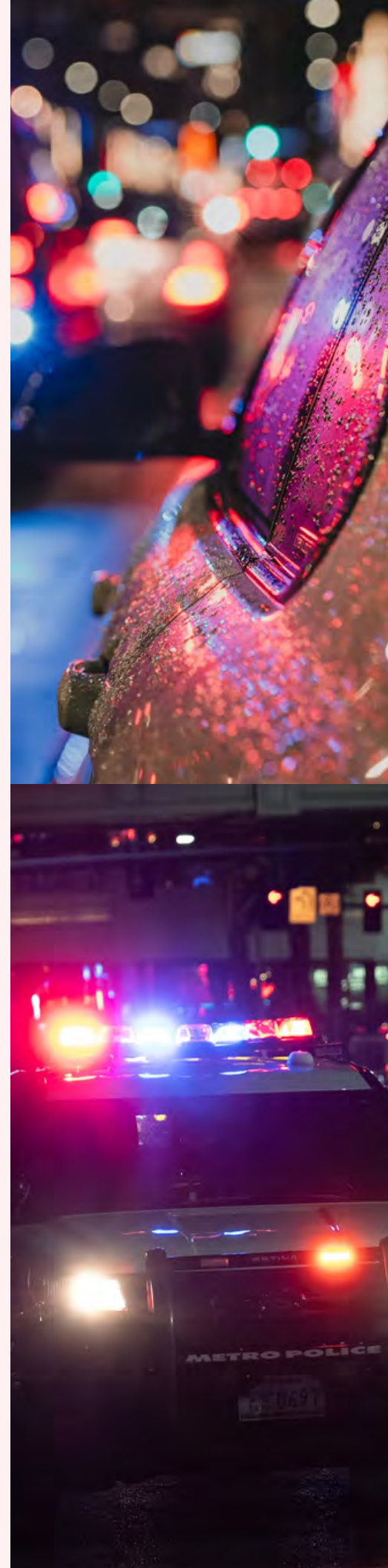
Journal of Public Economics
(Accepted)

Pretextual traffic stops, where police use minor infractions to investigate unrelated suspicions, have been widely criticized for contributing to racial disparities in policing. In this paper, **Louis-Philippe Beland**, **Jason Huh**, **Dongwoo Kim**, and **Kyutaro Matsuzawa** examine how efforts to curb such stops affect both police efficiency and racial disparities.

The study uses a policy change in March 2022 by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) that restricted the use of pretextual stops, allowing the authors to compare policing outcomes before and after the reform. Using detailed administrative data on traffic stops, searches, and enforcement outcomes, the authors implement a regression discontinuity in time design to evaluate how the composition and effectiveness of police activity changed when officers' discretion was limited.

They find that stopping pretextual stops led to a substantial reduction in the total number of stops, with particularly large declines affecting minority drivers. As a result, racial disparities in stop rates narrow significantly. At the same time, policing efficiency improves despite fewer overall stops, and the likelihood that a stop results in a successful outcome increases.

The paper also finds little evidence that the policy undermines public safety, indicating that reductions in discretionary stops do not come at the cost of increased crime or diminished enforcement capacity. Overall, the results suggest that limiting pretextual stops can both reduce racial disparities and enhance the effectiveness of policing. The results show that targeted reforms can improve outcomes along both equity and efficiency.





Are E-Cigarette Taxes Losing Their Bite?

Journal of Health Economics
(Revise and Resubmit)

Using multiple nationally representative surveys and a difference-in-differences approach, **Dhaval M. Dave, Tessie Krishna, Yang Liang, and Joseph J. Sabia** examine how youth vaping responds to e-cigarette taxes over time, finding that effectiveness has declined substantially: since around 2020, a one-dollar increase in ENDS taxes is more than 50% less effective at reducing youth vaping. While e-cigarette taxes remain a central policy tool, their impact depends on evolving user behavior, as the marginal youth vaper has become more nicotine-dependent and prone to risk-taking, making them less responsive to price increases; expanded access through informal or social sources may further weaken tax effects, while adult responses remain relatively stable. Overall, the paper highlights a key limitation of vice taxes—policy effectiveness can erode as user populations shift—pointing to the need for complementary strategies.

The Effect of Online Sales Bans on E-Cigarette Use

Journal of Health Economics
(Revise and Resubmit)

Drawing on four nationally representative datasets—Monitoring the Future (MTF), Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH), and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)—**Ege Aksu, Charles Courtemanche, Dhaval M. Dave, Daniel Dench, Michael Grossman, Jooyoung Kim, Selen Ozdogan, Shubhsri Rajendra, Joseph J. Sabia, and Henry Saffer** evaluate statewide online sales bans for e-cigarettes using a generalized difference-in-differences framework to assess effects on teens, young adults, and adults; they find no evidence that these bans reduce e-cigarette use for any group, as youth substitute toward retail or social sources and rarely rely on online purchases to begin with, suggesting that limiting online sales is unlikely to curb vaping and highlighting the importance of substitution behavior and actual access channels in policy design.



The Woman in the Arena: Evidence of Nonsexual Harassment on a Male-dominated Field

Journal of Human Resources
(Revise and Resubmit)

Using quasi-random assignment of referees and over 1,200 Brazilian professional soccer match logs, **Thiago de Lucena** examines gender differences in nonsexual harassment in a male-dominated setting, finding that the presence of a female assistant referee leads to a 38% increase in disciplinary warnings for harassment against officials. The evidence suggests this gap is driven not by intrinsic bias but by players' belief that harassment is more effective against female officials—an effect that disappears with the introduction of VAR, which reduces the perceived returns to such behavior. Overall, the findings highlight how women in high-stakes, decision-making roles may face disproportionate harassment, with implications for gender gaps in leadership and workplace participation.

Migrant Deaths and Attitudes Toward Immigration: Evidence from Eurobarometer Surveys

Canadian Journal of Economics
(Accepted)

Using Eurobarometer survey data and variation in the timing of migrant deaths in the Mediterranean relative to interview dates, Thiago de Lucena, Kangoh Lee, and Eduardo Polo-Muro examine how these events shape public attitudes toward immigration in the European Union, finding that migrant deaths do not affect views toward EU immigrants but increase positive attitudes toward non-EU immigrants—raising very favorable opinions by 5.3% and reducing very negative views by 4.0%. The results also show shifts in policy preferences, with decreased support for stricter measures against illegal immigration and increased demand for a common EU migration policy, highlighting a policy paradox in which higher migrant deaths may ultimately generate greater public support for more open immigration policies.





Do Black Politicians Matter? Political Leadership and Racial Composition on Top Public Sector Positions

Journal of Development Economics
(Revise and Resubmit)

Using a novel dataset on candidates' race and a regression discontinuity design, **Fernanda Estevan, Thiago de Lucena, Marcos Y. Nakaguma,** and **Alexandre Rabelo** examine whether electing non-white mayors in Brazil affects the racial composition of top public sector positions, finding no significant increase in the share of non-white managers following the election of a non-white mayor. Although non-white mayors differ from white mayors in observable characteristics, the results suggest they do not differ in networks or policy choices in ways that translate into greater representation in leadership roles, highlighting limits to the impact of descriptive political representation on reducing racial gaps in top public sector positions.



Hostile Work Environments and Task-Specific Performance of Ethnic Minorities

Economic Inquiry
(Revise and Resubmit)

Using a natural experiment that reduced racial harassment in football stadiums and a novel dataset with over 40 measures of player productivity, Thiago de Lucena Coelho and Konstantin Kunze examine how hostile work environments affect the task-specific performance of ethnic minorities, finding that reduced harassment does not improve efficiency-related outcomes or alter risk-taking relative to non-minority players but does significantly increase non-efficiency measures, particularly in-game participation. Overall, the results suggest that while decreased discrimination may not boost productivity per se, it meaningfully enhances minority engagement in the workplace, highlighting the importance of reducing hostile environments to improve participation.



Union Membership and Native-Immigrant Labor Market Gaps

The Economic Journal
(Revise and Resubmit)

Labor unions are often viewed as engines of worker equality, using collective bargaining to improve wages, job security, and working conditions. But in this paper, **Julia Zhu**, **Samuel Dodini**, and **Alexander Willén** present new evidence from Norway showing that union membership can actually widen labor market inequality – especially between native and immigrant workers.

Using detailed administrative data and field surveys from 2001-2015, the authors find that while union members generally receive a wage premium, the benefits are unevenly distributed. Native workers see an average earnings boost of around 10%, Western immigrants about 5%, and non-Western immigrants receive no short-term wage gain at all. These differences remain even among workers with similar roles in the same firm. Union membership also provides stronger layoff protection for natives than for immigrants. The only area where unions appear to narrow the gap is sick leave usage: non-Western immigrants show the largest reduction, likely due to improved work conditions and greater vulnerability to exploitation.

This study finds these disparities are especially pronounced in concentrated labor markets, where employed power is high. While unions act as a counterweight to monopsony, they primarily benefit native workers, exacerbating inequality across groups. Survey evidence suggests the source of the disparity is union behavior, not the differences in engagement. Non-Western immigrants are more likely to seek help from their unions but report lower satisfaction with the support they receive. Overall, the unequal effects of union membership explain up to 27.5% of the wage gap between natives and non-Western immigrants within firms and occupations. This highlights how labor institutions, even those designed to promote fairness, can reinforce inequality.

How Do Labor Market Prospects Affect the Fertility and Location Decisions of Immigrants?

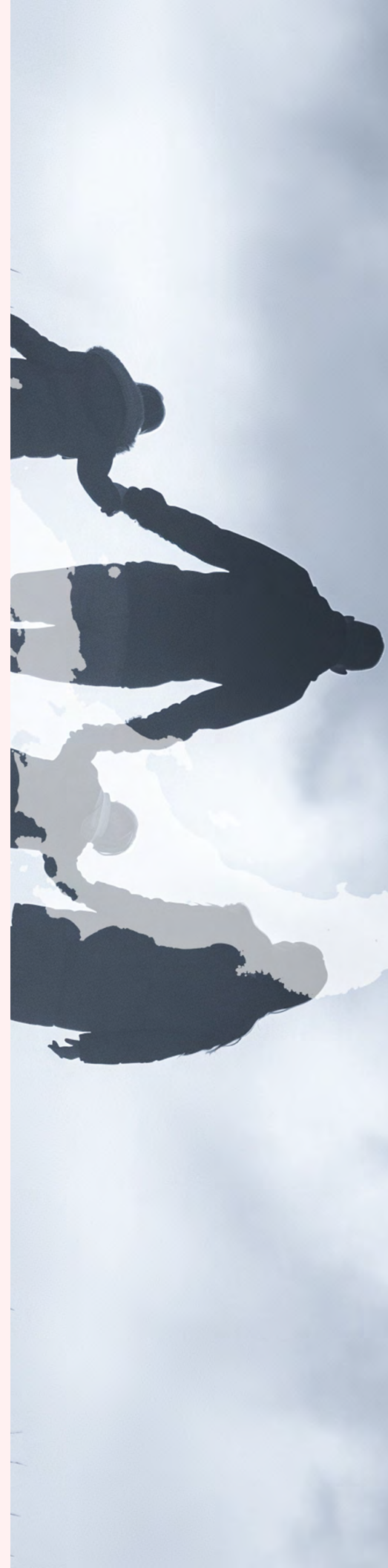
Regional Science and Urban Economics
(Revise and Resubmit)

Immigrant family formation decisions are closely tied to their economic opportunities, particularly the stability of their employment. In this paper, **Eduardo Polo-Muro**, **Joan Monras**, and **Javier Vázquez-Grenno** examine how improvements in labor market prospects affect fertility, focusing on a large and unexpected regularization program for undocumented immigrants in Spain in 2005.

This policy granted work permits to a substantial number of immigrants, leading to significant shifts from informal, unstable employment into more formal, secure, and better-paying jobs. To identify the causal impact of this change, the study uses two difference-in-differences strategies, comparing fertility outcomes for women living in households where both the male and the female were eligible for regularization.

The results show that improved job stability has a meaningful effect on fertility behavior. Women who gained legal status and access to better labor market opportunities experienced a significant increase in fertility. The preferred estimates indicate that the regularization increased fertility rates among affected women by 12.6% and prompted a substantial relocation of immigrant families from urban centers to provinces with historically lower levels of immigration. These findings highlight the importance of economic security in shaping demographic decisions. By reducing uncertainty and improving income prospects, access to formal employment appears to encourage childbearing among immigrant women.

Overall, the paper suggests that policies aimed at improving immigrants' employment conditions may also influence fertility patterns, with broader implications for population dynamics and regional development.





The Career Effects of Union Membership

Journal of Labor Economics
(Revise and Resubmit)

A new study by **Samuel Dodini**, **Kjell G. Salvanes**, **Alexander Willén**, and **Julia Zhu** offers one of the most comprehensive examinations to date of how labor union membership shapes workers' careers over time. Combining detailed Norwegian administrative data with novel worker surveys, the researchers move beyond traditional analyses focused solely on wages and employment to examine a broader set of outcomes, including job security, career advancement, work environment, and welfare usage. To identify causal effects, the study exploits government-induced changes in tax subsidies for union dues, which altered the cost of union membership for some workers but not others.

The findings reveal that the benefits of union membership vary substantially depending on when workers join over the course of their careers. Workers who enroll at different ages experience distinct effects on earnings growth, promotion opportunities, and long-run labor market trajectories, suggesting that unions influence careers in multidimensional ways that standard short-run wage comparisons fail to capture. The authors also find evidence that individual union membership matters above and beyond union presence at the workplace, indicating that unions provide important private benefits directly to members.

Survey evidence further shows that workers view unions as influential not only in wage-setting, but also in improving workplace amenities and protecting job quality. By integrating worker perceptions with long-run administrative evidence, the study highlights how unions shape careers through multiple channels simultaneously. The authors conclude that evaluating unions through narrow metrics alone risks overlooking their broader and longer-term effects on worker welfare and career development.

A Dummy Test of Causal Identification in Models with Bunching

Journal of the American Statistical Association
(Revise and Resubmit)

Bunching designs are widely used in applied work, but their credibility depends on strong identification assumptions. In this paper, **Carolina Caetano**, **Gregorio Caetano**, **Hao Fe**, and **Eric Nielsen** propose a simple “dummy test” to assess the credibility of causal identification in models that rely on bunching.

The key idea is to construct an indicator of the bunching points in the distribution and apply standard bunching estimation procedures. If the identification assumptions hold, the estimated coefficient of the indicator variable should be close to zero. The test can detect violations, such as model misspecification, manipulation unrelated to the policy, or underlying distributional features that bias estimates.

Using theory, simulations, and an empirical application, the authors show that the dummy test is a practical and transparent diagnostic tool. The paper also discusses implementation details, including how to select bunching points and interpret test results in finite samples, as well as how to implement their method into popular empirical research designs such as linear models with cross-sectional or panel data and nonlinear models.

Overall, the paper offers a simple way to probe causal identification whenever a multivalued treatment exhibits bunching. Its relevance extends well beyond settings with nonlinear budget sets or policy thresholds, reaching many empirical contexts across economics and other social sciences in which treatments bunch because of constraints, institutional rules, social norms, or coarse support.





Weather deviations linked to undocumented migration and return between Mexico and the United States

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
(Accepted)

Climate change is a growing global issue, exposing people to severe and extreme weather conditions daily. In this paper, **Julia Zhu**, **Nancy Chau**, **Amanda Rodewald**, and **Filiz Garip** examine how extreme weather influences the chances of undocumented migration between Mexico and the United States.

Using data on more than 48,000 individuals across 84 Mexican agricultural communities from 1992 to 2018, the authors find that anomalously dry conditions during the corn growing season (measured against each community's historical baseline) significantly increase the likelihood of undocumented border crossings. The effect is concentrated in rain-fed farming areas, where communities are most exposed to seasonal drought. On the return side, migrants already in the United States are significantly less likely to go back when their home communities continue to experience extreme rainfall, suggesting that weather-driven instability even has an effect on those who have already left.

The authors use kilometer-scale daily precipitation estimates to capture local weather shocks rather than regional averages, and they focus specifically on undocumented migrants, a group that is incredibly prone to border-crossing dangers but is historically underrepresented in administrative records.

As climate change intensifies droughts and rainfall extremes globally, these findings suggest that migration pressures along the U.S.-Mexico border are likely to grow. The research reframes border crossings not purely as economic choices or policy failures, but also as responses to ecological stress, and challenges policymakers to address the conditions driving displacement alongside the border infrastructure meant to manage it.

Follow Thy Neighbor: The Role of First Exporters

Journal of Urban Economics
(Accepted)

A firm's decision to enter export markets is often shaped not only by its own characteristics but also by the behavior of nearby firms. In this paper, **Hao Fe, Yang Liang,** and **Mary E. Lovely** examine how the presence of “first exporters” within a local area influences the export entry decisions of other firms.

The study analyzes whether exposure to early exporters – firms that are the first in a locality or industry to begin exporting – generates spillover effects that lower the barriers to entry for others. The empirical strategy exploits variation in the timing and location of these first export events to identify their causal impact on neighboring firms' export behavior.

They find that the emergence of a first exporter significantly increases the likelihood that other firms in the same area will start exporting. These effects are particularly strong for firms that are geographically close or operate in related industries. The results point to mechanisms such as information spillovers, learning about foreign market requirements, and the development of local export-related networks.

The paper also notes heterogeneity in responses, with smaller or less experienced firms benefiting most from nearby pioneers. This indicates that first exporters play a key role in reducing fixed costs and uncertainty associated with entering international markets.

Overall, the study highlights the importance of local peer effects in shaping firms' global engagement. By showing how early exporters can change broader export activity, the paper highlights the role of agglomeration and knowledge diffusion in international trade and regional economic development.





Are Households Pareto efficient? A Test Based on Multiple Job Holding

Labour Economics
(Accepted)

Economists often model households as though they act as a single decision-making unit. This paper argues that such a framework is too restrictive and that understanding household behavior requires paying attention to how decisions are made between spouses. A central question in labor and family economics, then, is whether couples make decisions in a way that is efficient for the household as a whole, as assumed in the collective household model. To study this, **Jacob Penglase** and **Ömer F. Sözbir** examine households in rural Bangladesh where both spouses often hold more than one job.

The paper's main contribution is to show that multiple job holding gives researchers a clearer way to study how couples make work decisions. If both spouses have more than one job, researchers can observe not just whether they work, but how they divide their time across several jobs that pay different wages. That creates more variation in the data and makes it easier to see whether husbands' and wives' choices fit together in a way that is efficient for the household as a whole.

Using data from the Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey, the authors estimate a household labor supply model and test whether observed patterns of work are consistent with these predictions. They find that the data do not reject Pareto efficiency. At the same time, they do find strong evidence against the traditional unitary model, which assumes that the household behaves as if it has a single utility function.

Overall, the findings suggest that household decision-making is more complex than the standard single decision-maker model allows, but still broadly consistent with the collective framework. The paper therefore supports the use of collective household models for studying labor supply and intra-household allocation, while also showing that multiple job holding can provide a valuable empirical setting for testing these theories.

Nicotine Vaping and Youth Mental Health: New Evidence from E-Cigarette Regulations

Health Economics

(Revise and Resubmit)

Using large-scale survey data and variation in e-cigarette policies across jurisdictions over time, **Chad D. Cotti, Tessie Krishna, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Erik Nesson, and Joseph J. Sabia** examine the impact of vaping regulations on youth and young adult mental health, finding no evidence that e-cigarette taxes or other policies improve outcomes such as depression, anxiety, or overall well-being; typical tax increases reduce persistent depressive symptoms by no more than 0.3% and suicidal ideation by no more than 1.0%. Consistent null results across policies suggest that restricting vaping access does not yield measurable mental health benefits, challenging the view that anti-vaping regulations can address the youth mental health crisis and emphasizing the need for more direct interventions.

The Effects of E-Cigarette and Cigarette Policies on Queer Youth

Journal of Health Economics

(Accepted)

Using data on youth health behaviors combined with variation in tobacco policies—such as e-cigarette taxes, minimum legal sales age laws, and cigarette taxes—**Tony Chuo, Chad Cotti, Charles Courtemanche, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Erik Nesson, and Joseph J. Sabia** estimate the causal effects of these regulations on vaping and smoking among LGBTQ+ adolescents, finding meaningful but heterogeneous impacts: higher e-cigarette taxes reduce vaping but can increase cigarette smoking, while higher cigarette taxes reduce smoking but may increase vaping. These cross-product substitution patterns differ from those of non-queer youth and vary across subgroups and contexts, likely reflecting differences in stress, social environments, and targeted marketing, underscoring the importance of accounting for population heterogeneity and potential unintended effects when designing tobacco control policies.





Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence from E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities

Journal of Law and Economics
(Accepted)

Policies targeting one risky behavior may generate spillover effects on others, with important implications for public health. In this paper, **Dhaval M. Dave**, **Yang Liang**, **Johanna Catherine Maclean**, **Joseph J. Sabia**, and **Matthew Braaksma** examine whether e-cigarette taxes affect alcohol-related externalities, as measured by traffic fatalities.

The authors exploit variation in the timing and magnitude of e-cigarette taxation across jurisdictions, combining this with detailed data on motor vehicle fatalities. Their empirical strategy compares changes in traffic deaths before and after tax increases, with particular attention to alcohol-involved crashes and high-risk groups. This approach allows them to identify whether restricting access to vaping leads individuals to substitute toward or away from other risky behaviors such as drinking.

The findings show that higher e-cigarette taxes lead to an increase in traffic fatalities, particularly those involving alcohol. The effects are strongest among younger adults, a group more likely to use e-cigarettes and engage in risky driving behaviors. These results are consistent with a substitution mechanism, where individuals respond to higher vaping costs by increasing alcohol consumption, thereby raising the incidence of impaired driving. The paper also explores heterogeneity across policy environments and demographic groups, showing that the unintended consequences are more pronounced in areas with fewer complementary alcohol control measures.

Overall, the study highlights the interconnected nature of risky behaviors and the potential for well-intentioned policies to generate adverse spillovers. It suggests that policymakers should consider cross-behavioral responses when designing regulations, as targeting one activity may inadvertently exacerbate harms in another domain.



CHEPS-ECON SEMINAR SERIES

Throughout the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semester, CHEPS and the Department of Economics (ECON) invited 26 scholars in the field of Economics to present working research to an audience of faculty and students. Seminar presentations included novel, cutting-edge research in labor economics, the economics of crime, health economics, public economics, developmental economics, environmental economics, the economics of education, and trade policy.

Speakers hailed from prestigious research institutions, including the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Colorado Denver, the University of Texas at San Antonio, the University of California, Los Angeles, the University of Connecticut, the University of California, Santa Barbara, Texas A&M University, the University of Michigan, Brigham Young University, Purdue University, the University of Houston, the University of California, Riverside, Cornell University, U.S. Military Academy - West Point,

Georgia State University, the University of Notre Dame, Tufts University, Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Arkansas, the University of California, Irvine, Columbia University, Syracuse University, Santa Clara University, the University of Delaware, and the University of Southern California.

In addition to their presentations, speakers held individual meetings with CHEPS affiliates, providing a valuable opportunity for one-on-one engagement. These sessions allowed affiliates to share their ongoing and prospective research, receive tailored feedback, and seek guidance on navigating academic paths. During the fall semester, CHEPS research assistants (RAs) gained personalized insights into the Ph.D. application process by asking speakers questions tailored to their own experiences. The 2025-26 Seminar Series proved to be a meaningful and enriching experience for both faculty and students.

THE CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS & POLICY STUDIES

FALL 2025 CHEPS-ECON SEMINAR SERIES

CO-SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Thursdays @ 3:30PM-4:45PM

Finch Conference Room (AL 660)



August 28
Michael Anderson
Health Economics
University of California,
Berkeley



September 4
Andrea Velasquez
Labor Economics
University of Colorado Denver



September 11
Natalia Emanuel
Labor Economics
Federal Reserve Bank of New
York



September 25
Felipe Goncalves
Economics of Crime
University of California, Los
Angeles



October 2
David Simon
*Labor and Health
Economics*
University of Connecticut



October 9
David Silver
Health Economics
University of California, Santa
Barbara



October 16
Danila Serra
Labor Economics
Texas A&M University



October 23
Sara Heller
Economics of Crime
University of Michigan



October 30
Riley Wilson
*Labor and Public
Economics*
Brigham Young University



November 6
Jillian Carr
*Labor and Public
Economics*
Purdue University



November 20
Chinhui Juhn
Labor Economics
University of Houston



December 4
Ozkan Eren
*Labor Economics and
Economics of Crime*
University of California, Riverside



December 11
Evan Riehl
Labor Economics
Cornell University

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<https://SDSU.zoom.us/j/85369410028>

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The Fall 2025 Seminar Series is supported, in part, by the College of Arts & Letters, SDSU Student Success Fee and external funding from CHEPS.

THE CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS & POLICY STUDIES

SPRING 2026 CHEPS-ECON SEMINAR SERIES

Co-Sponsored by the Department of Economics

Thursdays @ 3:30PM-4:45PM
Finch Conference Room (AL 660)



January 22
Carly Will Sloan
Economics of Crime
 U.S. Military Academy - West Point



January 29
Keith Teltser
Public and Health Economics
 Georgia State University



February 5
Victoria Barone
Labor Economics
 University of Notre Dame



February 12
Matthew Gudgeon
Labor and Health Economics
 Tufts University



February 19
Serena Canaan
Labor Economics
 Simon Fraser University



February 26
Claudio Ferraz
Political Economy
 University of British Columbia



March 5
Kyle Butts
Econometrics
 University of Arkansas



March 12
Maria Fitzpatrick
Health & Education Economics
 Cornell University



March 19
James Reeves
Economics of Crime
 University of Colorado Denver



March 26
Marion Aouad
Labor and Health Economics
 University of California, Irvine



April 9
Tatiana Mocanu
Labor Economics
 Columbia University



April 16
Thomas Pearson
Labor and Development Economics
 Syracuse University



April 23
Audrey Guo
Public Economics
 Santa Clara University



April 30
Parag Mahajan
Labor Economics
 University of Delaware



May 7
Paulina Oliva
Environmental and Development Economics
 University of Southern California



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 Student Success Fee

<https://SDSU.zoom.us/j/87591792404>

The Spring 2026 Seminar Series is supported, in part, by the College of Arts & Letters, SDSU Student Success Fee and external funding from CHEPS.

Real-World Effectiveness of the Influenza Vaccine

Michael Anderson, *University of California, Berkeley*

Dr. Michael Anderson presented his work relating to the influenza vaccine and its effects on public health. Using large administrative healthcare datasets, he examines the variation in vaccination rates through the use of an instrumental variable to show that the influenza vaccine significantly reduces outpatient and emergency room visits. This implies that making pediatric influenza vaccines more convenient and accessible could substantially increase vaccination rates and reduce healthcare expenditures. This work contributes to public health and policy literature by providing a quantitative measurement of the public burden of influenza vaccinations and challenges the use of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to study effects on healthcare visits.



Beyond the Border: Labor Market Effects of US Immigration Policy in El Salvador

Andrea Velasquez, *University of Colorado Denver*

Dr. Andrea Velasquez utilizes a shift-share identification strategy in order to analyze the effect of a major U.S. immigration enforcement program (Secure Communities) on migration and labor market outcomes in El Salvador. Their work finds that, through this program, extended exposure decreases the likelihood that a household includes a migrant.



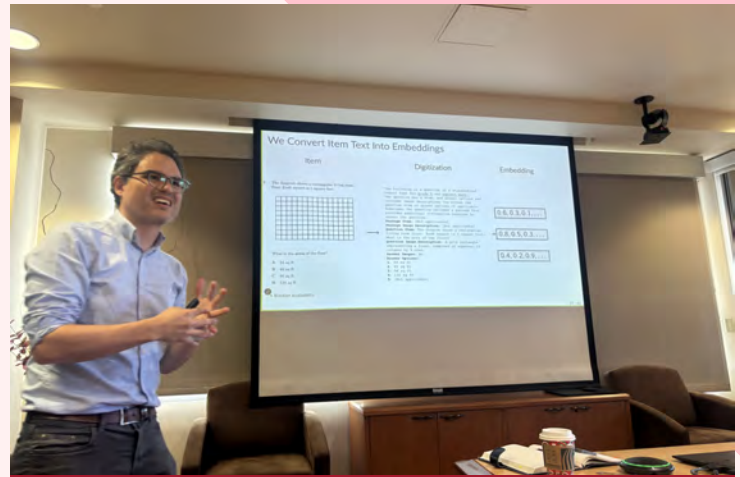
This change can be associated with lower income among wage workers, especially low-education men, informal workers, and those in the agriculture sector. Finally, their results suggest that limiting migration opportunities can increase competition within the local labor market and put a strain on the affected economy.

Test Items and Long-Run Outcomes: How to Measure Achievement and What Drives It

Jonathan Moreno-Medina, *University of Texas at San Antonio*

Standardized test scores are widely used as measures of academic achievement, yet they may not capture the skills most relevant for long-run economic success. **Dr. Jonathan Moreno-Medina** presents a new study that links performance on individual test questions to later-life outcomes, using administrative data on roughly 12 million students in Texas. He shows that traditional test-based measures understate racial and ethnic achievement gaps.

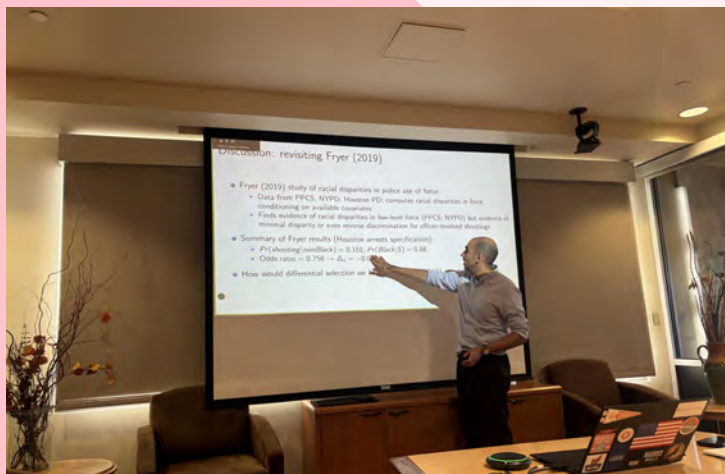
The discrepancy arises because minority students are less likely to answer the questions most predictive of future wages correctly. Finally, he explores what makes certain questions more predictive, using natural language processing and other tools to identify the underlying skills they capture, offering new insights into how achievement should be measured.



Racial Disparities in Police Use of Force

Felipe Goncalves, *University of California, Los Angeles*

Racial disparities in police use of force are often measured using administrative data, but such data are selected by police behavior, potentially biasing estimates. **Dr. Felipe Goncalves** presented whether minority individuals are disproportionately subject to police force and explored the mechanisms driving these differences. He develops a framework to correct for this selection bias using variation in officers' enforcement intensity.

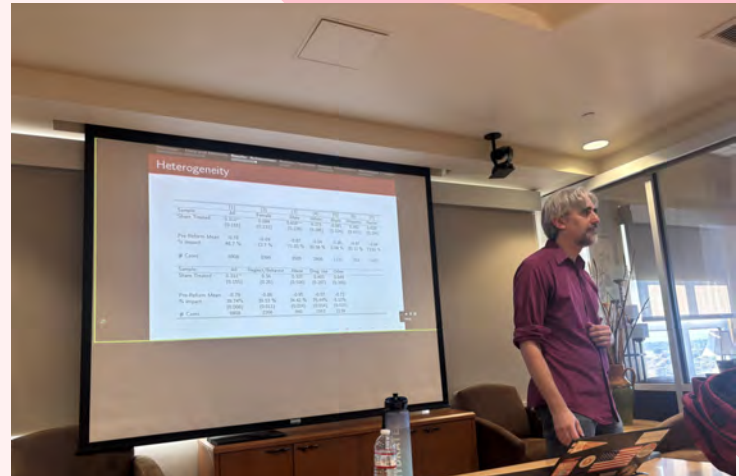


Applying the method to data from Chicago and Seattle, the authors show that Black civilians are overrepresented among arrestees relative to the underlying at-risk population. Accounting for selection roughly doubles estimated racial disparities in use of force. Most of the corrected gap remains unexplained by observable factors, suggesting a substantial role for differential treatment in policing outcomes.

Do Permanent Homes Cause Lasting Gains? Subsidizing Permanency for Foster Children Promotes Academic Achievement

David Simon, *University of Connecticut*

In 2015, a Minnesota policy reform allowed for an increase in payments to adoptive parents and kin guardians for children ages 6 and older. These changes left the new payments equal to the current foster care payments. **Dr. David Simon** finds that this change increased permanency, reducing time in foster care by 5.5 months and leading to more adoptions and guardianships. These shifts improved outcomes, raising academic achievement by 0.31 standard deviations, increasing school stability, and reducing suspensions. The results suggest that both increased time in permanent homes and higher financial support jointly drive improvements, with the largest gains seen among children experiencing both.

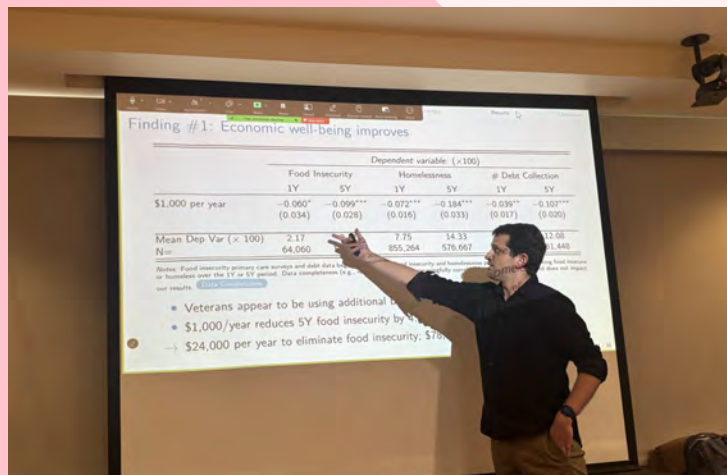


Invisible Wounds: Mental Disability Benefits and Veteran Economic Well-Being

David Silver, *University of California, Santa Barbara*

Veterans' mental disability benefits have expanded rapidly, but their effects on well-being are not well understood. **Dr. David Silver** presented his study on VA Disability Compensation using quasi-random assignment to medical examiners with differing rating tendencies. The authors find that an additional \$1,000 in annual benefits improves economic stability, reducing food insecurity, homelessness, and debt collections. Benefits

also increase healthcare use, particularly preventive care and medication adherence, and improve patient satisfaction. However, there are no detectable effects on most health outcomes or mortality. Veterans denied benefits experience worse outcomes, suggesting current eligibility rules may exclude individuals with substantial unmet needs.



Influencing Girls' Education Choices through Social Media

Danila Serra, *Texas A&M University*

Social media plays a central role in teenagers' lives, yet little is known about its ability to shape educational choices. **Dr. Danila Serra** evaluates a randomized controlled trial in Peru that delivers a role model intervention via Instagram, complemented by a teacher-focused information campaign on WhatsApp. High school girls were exposed to short videos from female engineering students showcasing academic and social life. The intervention initially reduced interest in engineering, especially among lower-performing students. However, three months later, high-achieving girls in math were more likely to apply for engineering scholarships, particularly when teachers were also targeted. Overall, the program significantly increased college enrollment across majors. The results suggest that social media can influence aspirations by boosting confidence and shifting beliefs about peers' educational paths, highlighting its potential as a scalable policy tool.



The Longer-Term Crime and Health Effects of an Experiment to Reduce Gun Violence

Sara Heller, *University of Michigan*

Community violence interventions often target individuals at the highest risk of involvement in shootings, but evidence on their long-term effectiveness is limited. Building on her previous study of the READI Chicago program, **Dr. Sara Heller** presented the extended impacts of this program using randomized assignment and new data covering up to 40 months post-enrollment, looking at both crime and health outcomes. The results



assess whether earlier reductions in shootings in participants referred by outreach workers persist after the program ends. The paper also incorporates hospital records to capture broader measures of violence and health. Overall, the analysis sheds light on the durability of intervention effects and their broader social benefits.

The Effect of Childhood Neighbors on Occupation Choice

Riley Wilson, *Brigham Young University*

Children's early environments play a key role in shaping long-run outcomes, but the importance of very local exposure remains understudied. **Dr. Riley Wilson** presented how immediate next-door neighbors influence children's future occupation choices using linked historical census data on over 10 million individuals. Comparing children on the same street, the study finds that growing up next to someone in a given occupation increases the likelihood of entering that occupation by about 10%. Effects are stronger with greater exposure and when neighbors are more socially connected, and disappear when exposure is disrupted by early neighbor death. Importantly, these influences translate into higher income and education when neighbors hold higher-status jobs, highlighting the role of micro-neighborhood networks in economic mobility.



Stimulus Payments and Crime

Jillian Carr, *Purdue University*

Dr. Jillian Carr presented her research examining how stimulus payments affect crime using randomized timing from the 2001 and 2008 U.S. stimulus programs. Leveraging administrative arrest data from four states, she finds no significant effects in 2001, when payments were smaller and economic conditions were stable. In contrast, the larger 2008 payments during the Great Recession increased crime, particularly among individuals with prior arrest records. The effects are strongest for family violence, consistent with increased substance use.



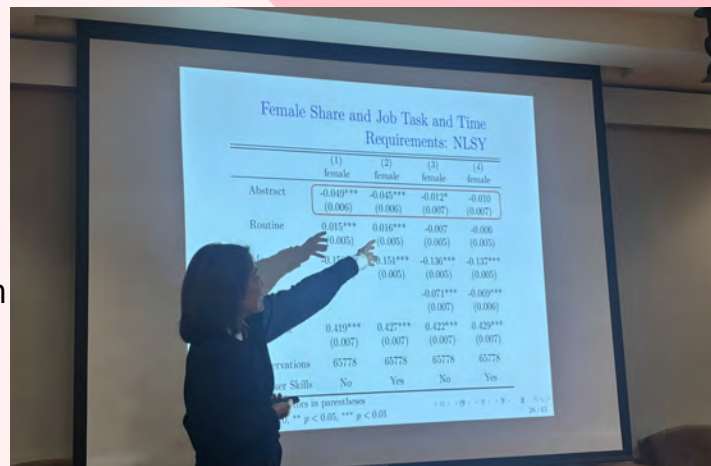
The findings suggest that while stimulus payments provide financial relief, they can also have unintended effects. In severe downturns, the added liquidity may be associated with increases in certain types of crime, highlighting the need to consider potential side effects alongside their benefits.

Task and Time Requirements and Gender Pay Gap

Chinhui Juhn, *University of Houston*

Non-routine, cognitively demanding jobs often require long and irregular hours, creating potential tradeoffs across skills and time availability. **Dr. Chinhui Juhn** examines how these joint requirements shape gender differences in occupational sorting and pay. Using DOT and O*NET data, the study shows that cognitive task intensity is strongly correlated with time demands.

Combining this with Census, ACS, and NLSY data, the paper finds that women, especially those with high cognitive skills, are underrepresented in such occupations and overrepresented in routine jobs. This mismatch helps explain the slowdown in convergence of occupational sorting and the persistent gender pay gap.



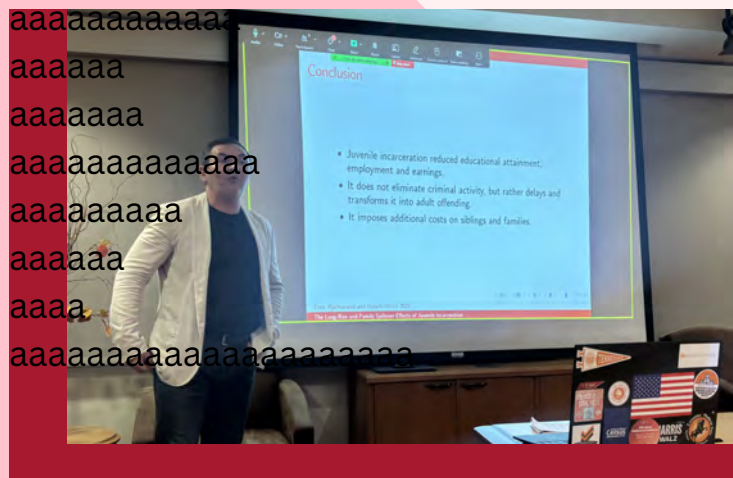
The slide displays a table with four columns labeled (1) female, (2) female, (3) female, and (4) female. The rows are categorized by job type: Abstract, Routine, and a section for Cognitive Skills. The data shows coefficients and standard errors in parentheses. For example, in the 'Abstract' row, the coefficients are -0.043***, -0.045***, -0.012*, and -0.019. In the 'Routine' row, the coefficients are 0.015***, 0.016***, -0.007, and -0.006. The 'Cognitive Skills' section shows coefficients of 0.419***, 0.427***, 0.422***, and 0.429***. The slide also includes a note: 't-statistics in parentheses' and a legend: '*** p < 0.01, ** p < 0.05, * p < 0.10'.

	(1) female	(2) female	(3) female	(4) female
Abstract	-0.043*** (0.006)	-0.045*** (0.006)	-0.012* (0.007)	-0.019 (0.007)
Routine	0.015*** (0.005)	0.016*** (0.005)	-0.007 (0.005)	-0.006 (0.005)
Cognitive Skills	0.419*** (0.007)	0.427*** (0.007)	0.422*** (0.007)	0.429*** (0.007)

The Effects of Juvenile Incarceration on Defendants and Their Families

Ozkan Eren, *University of California, Riverside*

Juvenile incarceration is common in the U.S., yet its long-term consequences remain understudied. **Dr. Ozkan Eren** examines both direct and family spillover effects using administrative data from South Carolina and quasi-random assignment of cases to judges with differing sentencing harshness. The findings show that juvenile incarceration substantially worsens long-run outcomes: it reduces high school graduation by 17



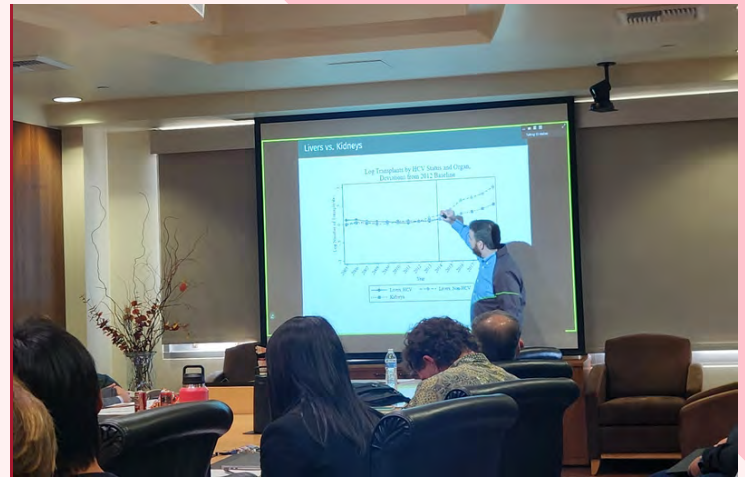
percentage points, lowers early adult earnings by about \$5,000 annually, and increases future adult incarceration, especially for violent offenses. While recidivism initially declines, longer-run effects may promote criminal activity. The paper also documents large family spillovers, with siblings experiencing significantly worse educational outcomes.

Scarcity & Racial Disparities in Liver Transplants

Keith Telster, *Georgia State University*

Organ transplantation is governed by medical need, yet disparities may arise when scarcity changes. **Dr. Keith Telster** examines how a sharp reduction in liver demand (driven by new treatments for Hepatitis C) affected racial disparities in transplants. He finds that reduced scarcity disproportionately benefited White patients. Transplants increased by 56.6% for White patients without HCV but only 11.9% for Black patients. Similarly, transplant rates rose and waiting times fell only for White patients.

These patterns are surprising given that Black patients typically enter the waiting list in worse health. A decomposition shows that observable factors explain only a small share of the gap, suggesting that disparities persist even when supply constraints ease.



Demographic Divergence: The Legacy of the Opioid Epidemic

Victoria Barone, *University of Notre Dame*

The opioid epidemic has had far-reaching demographic consequences beyond mortality. **Dr. Victoria Barone** presented her research on how exposure to the epidemic affected local population growth across U.S. commuting zones. Using variation driven by Purdue Pharma's targeted OxyContin marketing, proxied by 1996 cancer mortality rates, the study finds that more exposed areas experienced significantly lower population growth, about 2.5 percentage points lower per standard deviation increase in exposure, by 2020. These declines were concentrated among individuals aged 18–44.



The results show that mortality explains only a small share of this decline. Instead, increased out-migration, especially among women and college-educated individuals, drove population losses, while higher fertility partially offset declines among younger populations.

Long-Run Effects of Early Career Occupational Experience

Matthew Gudgeon, *Tufts University*

Early career job assignments can have lasting effects on workers' trajectories, yet causal evidence is limited. **Dr. Matthew Gudgeon** studies how initial occupational placements in the U.S. Army shape long-run outcomes using administrative tax data and personnel records. Leveraging test score cutoffs in a series of regression discontinuity designs, the study finds strong path dependence: early assignments increase the likelihood of working in similar occupations up to 20 years later by 19 percentage points.

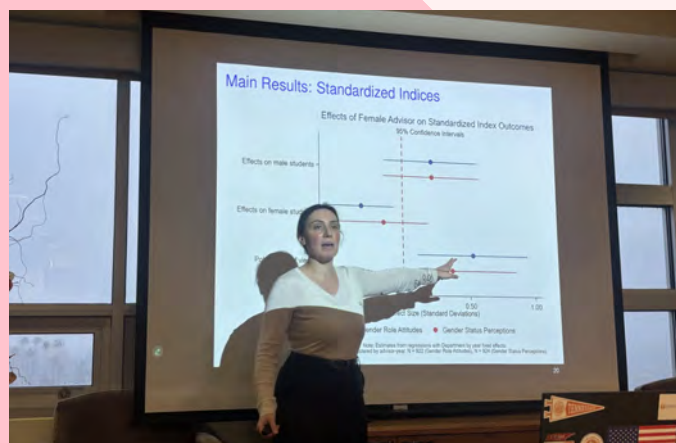
These impacts persist through continued exposure to female instructors, becoming embedded over time rather than fading quickly. This underscores the powerful role of authority figures in shaping gender norms, as repeated interaction gradually broadens perceptions of who can lead and succeed.



Authority Figures and Formation of Gender Norms

Serena Canaan, *Simon Fraser University*

Authority figures can play a key role in shaping long-run beliefs and social norms. **Dr. Serena Canaan** studies how exposure to faculty advisors influences gender attitudes using random assignment of first-year students at an elite Middle Eastern university. Linking administrative data with long-term survey responses, she finds that women assigned to female advisors adopt more egalitarian views, while men become more conservative. Effects are strongest in male-dominated fields and among more religious students.



These impacts persist through continued exposure to female instructors, becoming embedded over time rather than fading quickly. This underscores the powerful role of authority figures in shaping gender norms and gradually broadening perceptions of who can lead and succeed.

Revenue Shortfalls and Fiscal Capacity in Brazil

Claudio Ferraz, *University of British Columbia*

Non-tax revenues are an important funding source for local governments, but their volatility may affect incentives to raise taxes. **Dr. Claudio Ferraz** studies how shocks to intergovernmental transfers influence fiscal capacity in Brazilian municipalities, exploiting exogenous changes driven by population updates. His results show asymmetric responses: positive revenue shocks increase spending without reducing taxes, while negative shocks lead municipalities to strengthen tax collection.

In response to losses, local governments invest in fiscal capacity by improving tax administration, updating property registries, and increasing enforcement. These responses vary with political competition and administrative capacity. The results highlight how reliance on non-tax revenues can shape incentives for building sustainable tax systems.



Difference-in-Differences with Spatial Spillovers

Kyle Butts, *University of Arkansas*

Difference-in-differences designs often rely on geographic boundaries, but spillover effects across borders can bias estimates. **Dr. Kyle Butts** presents a new framework to account for spatial spillovers within a potential outcomes setting. He shows that standard estimates are biased because control units may be indirectly treated, and treated units may be affected by nearby treatments. Dr. Butts decomposes this bias and proposes estimation strategies that correct for both sources while allowing researchers to recover spillover effects, even with staggered treatment timing.



Applying the approach to place-based policies, the results demonstrate that ignoring spillovers can substantially misstate treatment effects, highlighting the need to incorporate spatial interactions in empirical work.

The Effect of Asthma Management in Schools on the Health & Education of Children

Maria Fitzpatrick, *Cornell University*

Asthma is a major cause of school absenteeism, with important consequences for long-term outcomes. In this seminar, **Dr. Maria Fitzpatrick** evaluates a New York City program that placed asthma case managers in public schools to support students and families. Using linked health and education data and a triple-differences design, the study finds that the program improved asthma management and reduced absenteeism among affected students by 5%, narrowing the gap with non-asthmatic peers by 20%.

It also increased active asthma prescriptions by nearly 10%. Overall, the results show that school-based health interventions can meaningfully improve both student health and educational outcomes.



Job Displacement, Crime, and the Value of Unemployment Insurance in the U.S.

James Reeves, *University of Colorado Denver*

Job loss can have far-reaching effects beyond earnings, including impacts on criminal behavior. **Dr. James Reeves** studies how layoffs and unemployment insurance shape crime and welfare using data on workers affected by mass layoffs in the U.S. The findings show that displaced workers experience large earnings losses and increased contact with the criminal justice system, particularly felony charges. More generous unemployment



insurance (higher replacement rates, longer durations, and easier access) reduces offending with only modest effects on employment. Improved access to claiming, driven by employer environments, also lowers crime. Overall, the results suggest that unemployment insurance policies providing greater liquidity at job loss can generate broader social benefits by reducing crime and improving welfare.

How does Medicare Eligibility affect Choice and Utilization?

Evidence from Veterans

Marion Aouad, *University of California, Irvine*

Dr. Marion Aouad studies how gaining Medicare eligibility affects healthcare use among veterans already covered by the VA. Using a regression discontinuity with a cutoff at age 65, she presented her findings that hospitalizations increase by about 3.3%. There are large shifts in payer use: Medicare hospital use rises sharply, while reliance on VA, commercial, and other federal programs declines.

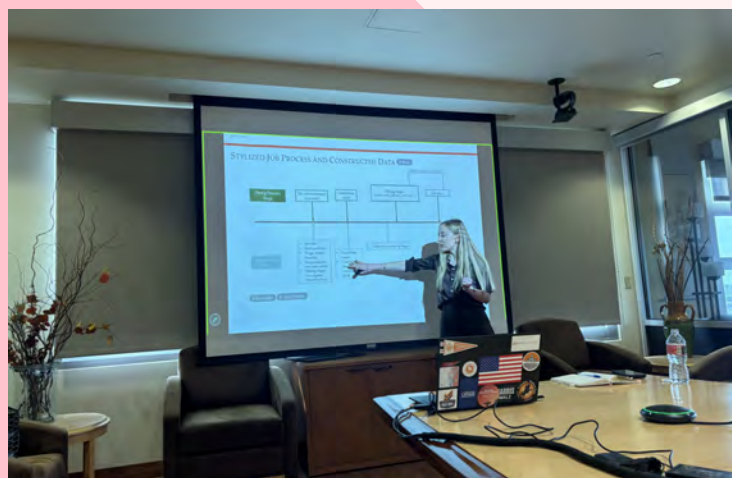
The results show that veterans reallocate care toward Medicare, particularly for hospitals closer to home and more elective procedures. However, there is no change in average hospital quality. Overall, the findings suggest Medicare competes with existing coverage and influences where care is received.



Personal Connections and Hiring Decisions in the Public Sector: New Evidence from Brazil

Tatiana Mocanu, *Columbia University*

Personal connections are often thought to improve hiring by conveying information, but they may also enable favoritism. **Dr. Tatiana Mocanu** studies public sector hiring in Brazil using comprehensive administrative data and a reform that reduced discretion in hiring. Comparing applicants before and after the reform, they find that limiting the use of connections changes job search behavior and employer hiring decisions.



The evidence points to favoritism rather than information: when connections matter less, hired workers are of higher quality, with lower absenteeism, fewer suspensions, higher retention, and more promotions. Overall, her results suggest that referral-based hiring can distort selection and reduce productivity when not properly incentivized.

Encouraging Naturalization: The Broader Effects of DACA on U.S. Immigration

Thomas Pearson, *Syracuse University*

Dr. Thomas Pearson presented on how DACA affects broader immigration outcomes beyond its direct beneficiaries. Using a difference-in-differences design with geographic variation in exposure to DACA-eligible individuals, he finds that DACA significantly increased naturalization rates without raising the number of noncitizens. The effect is driven by higher naturalization among existing immigrants, most of whom are not DACA recipients.

The results suggest that providing protection and work authorization to some immigrants can indirectly encourage others to pursue citizenship, likely by reducing uncertainty and barriers through social networks. Overall, temporary protections can promote longer-term integration and permanent residency decisions.



The Impact of Preference Programs in Public Procurement: Evidence from Veteran Set-Asides

Audrey Guo, *Santa Clara University*

Dr. Audrey Guo studies the effects of procurement preferences for veteran-owned businesses using a 2016 Supreme Court ruling that expanded set-asides at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Exploiting this policy change, the authors find that contracts awarded to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses increased, benefiting both existing firms and new entrants. Despite these gains, there is no evidence of reduced competition,



spillovers to other agencies, or declines in contract performance.

Overall, her results suggest that preference programs can successfully support targeted groups without imposing efficiency costs, indicating that such policies can improve equity in public procurement while maintaining government performance.

The Impact of Immigration on Firms and Workers: Insights from the H-1B Lottery

Parag Mahajan, *University of Delaware*

In his presentation, **Dr. Parag Mahajan** looks at how access to high-skilled immigrant workers affects firms using the 2007 H-1B visa lottery. Combining Census employer-employee data with lottery outcomes, he shows that firms winning visas increase hiring of college-educated immigrant workers, expand in size, and have higher survival rates. These effects are strongest for small, skill-intensive, and high-productivity firms.

The study finds no overall displacement of native college-educated workers at the firm level, though there is heterogeneity across subgroups. Overall, his results suggest that high-skilled immigration can support firm growth without broadly harming native employment.



Targeting Subsidies through Price Menus: Menu Design and Evidence from Clean Fuels

Paulina Oliva, *University of Southern California*

Dr. Paulina Oliva studies how governments can improve the cost-effectiveness of subsidies by targeting consumers through non-linear price menus, using evidence from a field experiment in Ghana's LPG (clean cooking fuel) market. The authors show that offering higher per-unit subsidies for smaller cylinders increases take-up among more price-sensitive, lower-income households.



Despite these gains, the policy achieves similar levels of LPG demand at substantially lower public cost, with no evidence of reduced access for other consumers. Overall, her findings suggest that well-designed price menus can improve targeting and equity without sacrificing efficiency in public.

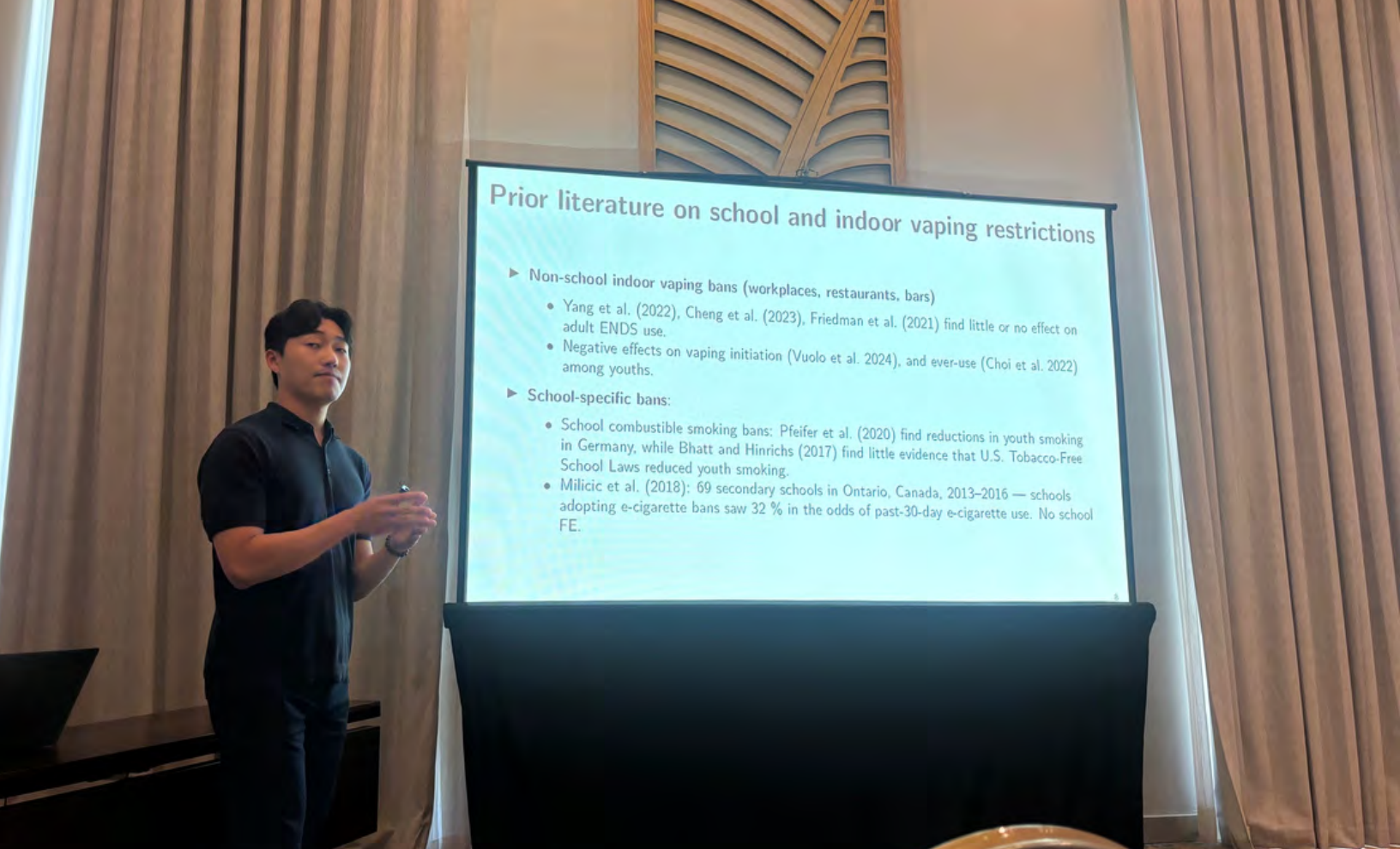


This academic year, CHEPS sponsored three conference trips for a total of six students. This afforded them the opportunity to engage with the cutting edge of economic research and meet leading scholars across a variety of fields.

Students traveled to Seattle for the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference, to Tampa for the Southern Economic Association (SEA) Research Conference, and to Helsinki for the European Society of Population Economics (ESPE) Annual Conference.

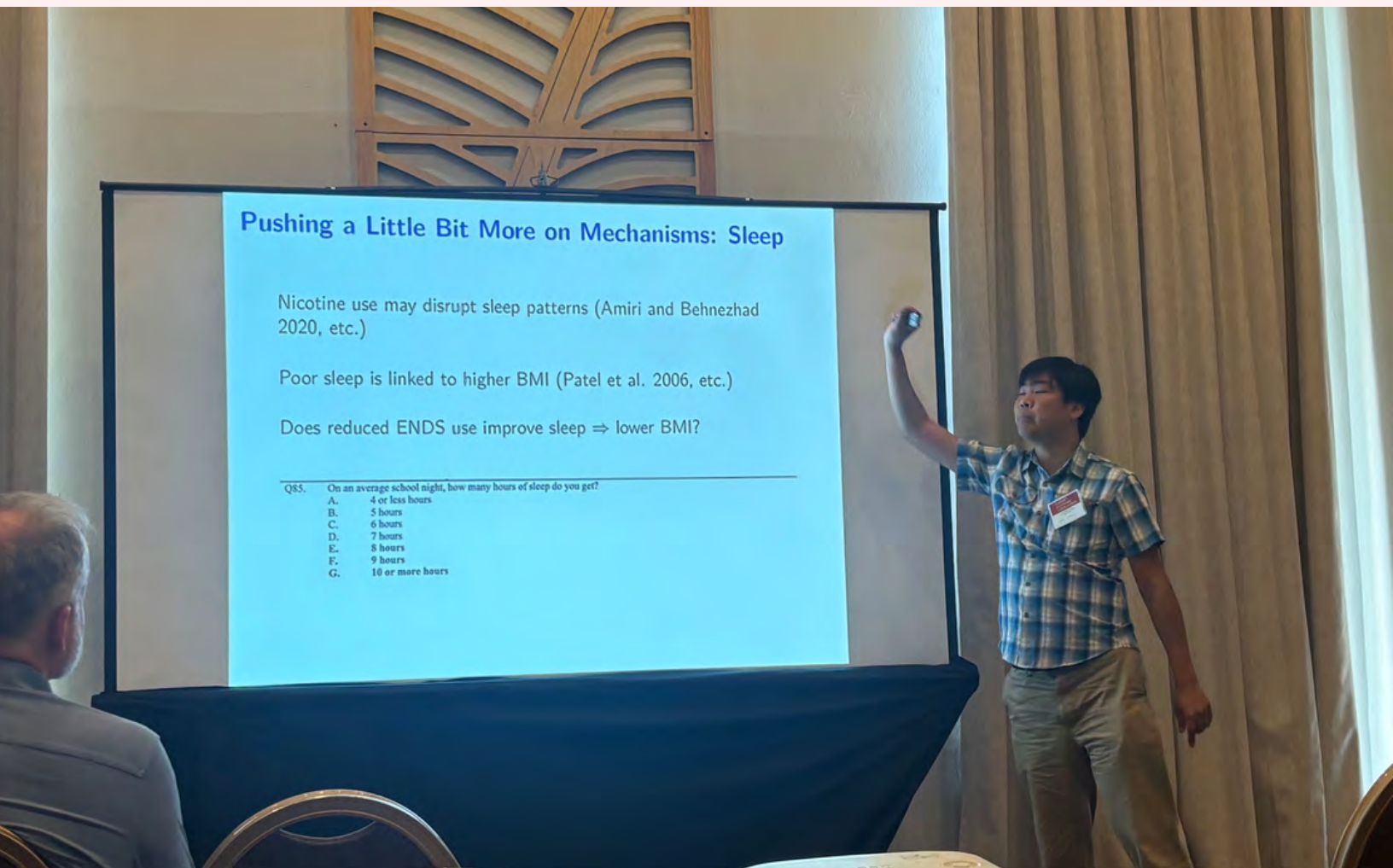
These conferences featured presentations from leading academics across multiple disciplines and fields of study.





Prior literature on school and indoor vaping restrictions

- ▶ Non-school indoor vaping bans (workplaces, restaurants, bars)
 - Yang et al. (2022), Cheng et al. (2023), Friedman et al. (2021) find little or no effect on adult ENDS use.
 - Negative effects on vaping initiation (Vuolo et al. 2024), and ever-use (Choi et al. 2022) among youths.
- ▶ School-specific bans:
 - School combustible smoking bans: Pfeifer et al. (2020) find reductions in youth smoking in Germany, while Bhatt and Hinrichs (2017) find little evidence that U.S. Tobacco-Free School Laws reduced youth smoking.
 - Milicic et al. (2018): 69 secondary schools in Ontario, Canada, 2013–2016 — schools adopting e-cigarette bans saw 32 % in the odds of past-30-day e-cigarette use. No school FE.



Pushing a Little Bit More on Mechanisms: Sleep

Nicotine use may disrupt sleep patterns (Amiri and Behnezhad 2020, etc.)

Poor sleep is linked to higher BMI (Patel et al. 2006, etc.)

Does reduced ENDS use improve sleep $\Rightarrow$ lower BMI?

- Q85. On an average school night, how many hours of sleep do you get?
- A. 4 or less hours
 - B. 5 hours
 - C. 6 hours
 - D. 7 hours
 - E. 8 hours
 - F. 9 hours
 - G. 10 or more hours



Departing Postdoc: Tessie Krishna

Tessie Krishna, what motivated you to join CHEPS as a postdoctoral researcher?

At the heart of my research agenda has always been a simple conviction: today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. CHEPS, with its deep focus on risky behaviors among young people, was a natural home for that conviction. Beyond the research fit, I was drawn to the seminar culture and collaborative spirit here. That combination is rare, and it made CHEPS an easy choice.



What are the most important skills you acquired?

My time at CHEPS sharpened me in ways I did not fully anticipate. From Joe, I learned to write with greater precision and keep the big picture in view. From Yang, I absorbed lessons in prioritization that have genuinely changed how I work. And from Tony and Christian, I came to appreciate what truly rigorous, replicable research looks like in practice.

What advice do you have for future CHEPS affiliates?

The returns are entirely determined by what you put in. Treat every seminar, every feedback session, every collaboration as an investment. And in a world where AI can replicate the surface of almost any piece of work, make yourself the unique selling point. CHEPS gives you the tools. What you build with them is up to you.

Where are you headed, and what excites you most about the next chapter?

I will be joining the Feliciano School of Business at Montclair State University. With both a Ph.D. in Economics and an MBA, a business school setting lets me bring both identities to bear fully. But what moves me most is serving Montclair's extraordinary number of first-generation college students as a first-gen student myself. That this is a homecoming to New Jersey makes it all the sweeter. I will continue my research through external grants and as a Niskanen Center affiliate.

Departing MS Affiliate: Joaquin Arellanes

Joaquin Arellanes, how did you become involved as a researcher with the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies?

After my acceptance to the M.S. program and indicating a potential desire for graduate study, I was referred to Dr. Sabia (Thank you Dr. Balsdon!) and had the opportunity to attend the annual CHEPS bootcamp, where I was introduced to best practices for conducting research.

What are the most important skills you acquired?

I learned the necessary skills to take a research idea from the preliminary stages to a finished product, which is a function of time management, quantitative skills, and critical thinking.



What advice do you have for future CHEPS graduate affiliates?

My advice would be to stay organized! I know that my first semester was spent adjusting to my coursework and research-related tasks, and it would have served me to be more scrupulous in my planning. I would also advise that you begin preparing for graduate school as soon as you can. Trust me. You do not want to be worrying about the GRE, applications, classes, and research at the same time!

Which Ph.D. program will you be attending, and why did you choose it?

I will be attending the University of Georgia's Ph.D. program in Public Administration and Policy. I've developed an affinity for applied microeconomics, and I would be interested in continuing my research in health economics at a respectable institution.



Prior to the Fall 2025 semester, incoming first-year M.S. students and select undergraduate research assistants participated in a weeklong coding bootcamp focused on Stata and R, led by SDSU Economics faculty member Dr. Kyu Matsuzawa. Designed to prepare students for CHEPS research and core coursework such as Econ 650, the program introduced key data skills using major public datasets like the BRFSS, CPS, and ACS. Participants developed strong coding practices, conducted hands-on empirical analysis, and concluded with a capstone project replicating results from a published study. Despite its fast pace, the bootcamp remains a cornerstone experience for CHEPS affiliates, with many students citing it as a critical foundation for their development as applied microeconomic researchers.

STATA/R BOOTCAMP

CHEPS Leadership Team

Yang Liang is an associate professor of economics and associate 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 health, labor, and international economics. His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals including the *Journal of Health Economics*, the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, the *Journal of Urban Economics*, the *Journal of Population Economics*, and the *Review of International Economics*. Liang received his Ph.D. in Economics from Syracuse University in 2018.



Kyu Matsuzawa is an Assistant Professor of Economics at SDSU and the Chief of Staff and Constable of CHEPS's new Economics of Crime Research Division. He received his Bachelor's and Master's from SDSU and his PhD from the University of Oregon, and has been a long-time CHEPS affiliate. He is an applied microeconomist with a specific interest in the economics of crime and health economics. His current research topic includes police traffic stops, sports gambling legalization, and the state of Oregon's drug decriminalization law. His work has been published in several leading economics journals, including the *Journal of Human Resources*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, and the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*.

Faculty Affiliates

Audrey Beck is an Associate Professor of Sociology at San Diego State University. She earned her B.A. from UCLA and her Ph.D. in sociology (demography and stratification) from Duke University, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton University, where she studied how union formation and dissolution affect child health, parenting, and school readiness. She joined SDSU as an Assistant Professor in 2015 after a postdoctoral research role there. Her research uses demographic methods to examine racial, ethnic, and nativity disparities in health. Recent work explores neighborhood conditions, crime, birth outcomes, and police-involved deaths. She has received multiple grants and fellowships and has published in leading journals, including *Demography*, *Social Science and Medicine*, and *American Journal of Public Health*.



Ed Balsdon joined the SDSU faculty in 2000 after earning a Ph.D. in Economics from UC Santa Barbara. His scholarly work, specializing in natural resource economics, public finance, and behavioral responses to risk, has appeared in *Land Economics*, the *Journal of Urban Economics*, the *National Tax Journal*, and other publications. He has served as the SDSU Associate Dean of Graduate & Research Affairs from 2014–2020 and the Interim Dean of Graduate Studies from 2020–2021. During this administrative period, he contributed economic analysis to a large NSF grant project examining coastal flood risk in California. Ed rejoined the SDSU Economics Department in Fall 2021.

Faculty Affiliates

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 co-editor at the *Journal of Human Resources* and an associate editor at the *Journal of Development Economics*.



Cal Bryan is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Washington & Lee University. He received a B.S. in Bioenvironmental Sciences from Texas A&M University in 2013, an M.A. in Economics from San Diego State University in 2020, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics from Colorado State University in 2024. His current research focuses on evaluating the efficiency of the Federal Crop Insurance Program, developing strategies to reduce wildfire risk before it occurs, and estimating the economic spillovers of wildfire suppression efforts. His broader research agenda examines how individuals and institutions respond to environmental and climate risks, with a focus on natural disaster management, forest resource protection, and the use of microeconomic and geospatial tools to evaluate the sustainability, effectiveness, and equity of environmental policies.

Faculty Affiliates

Ryan Brown is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Colorado Denver. His research interests span multiple fields of applied microeconomics, including development economics, labor economics, health economics, economic demography, and political economy. Dr. Brown's work has primarily focused on applying econometric techniques to population representative data in both developed and developing country settings, to examine how changes in the social, physical, and/or economic environment can have a persistent impact on health, preferences, and human capital accumulation. Recently, he has also begun to explore the relationship between women's success in competing for entry-level positions and its subsequent impact on the gender gap at the top of the career ladder.



Alex Chesney earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Davis, in 2022 and currently serves as Research Director at the Office of Labor and Economic Analysis (OLEA) and Assistant Professor in Economics at the United States Air Force Academy. He received his M.A. in Economics from San Diego State University in 2012 and his B.S. from the United States Air Force Academy in 2011. He recently served as a Senior Economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisers. Alex's research interests are in public and labor economics, with a particular focus on policies affecting military personnel and their dependents. His recent research has been published in the *Journal of Military Operations Research*, and he currently has a revise-and-resubmit at the *Review of Economics of the Household* for a paper with coauthors titled "The Cost of Care, the Loss of Talent: How Childcare Access Shapes Workforce Retention."

Faculty Affiliates

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 and an affiliate of the Economic Self-Sufficiency Policy Research Institute at the University of California, Irvine. He is currently an associate editor at the *Journal of Health Economics* and *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*. 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.



Thiago de Lucena is an Assistant Professor of Economics at San Diego State University. He joined the faculty at SDSU after completing his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of California, Davis. He is interested in development economics, labor economics, and political economy. In the field of labor economics, his work seeks to understand the consequences of events that may reduce out-group biases. His work in political economy focuses on government efficiency at the local level. Thiago is originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and holds a master's from the São Paulo School of Economics.

Faculty Affiliates

Hao Fe is an Associate Professor of Economics at San Diego State University. Her research combines econometric models with emerging big data sources to create novel causal inference approaches. My areas of interest include child development, education policy, the economics of crime, social networks, and health economics. Her recent project implements a newly developed identification strategy to estimate the effect of children's time allocation on their skill formation. She is currently investigating the causal impact of social networks on consumer behaviors and crime. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Applied Econometrics* and the *Journal of Urban Economics*.



Toshio Ferrazares is an Assistant Professor of Economics at CUNY Hunter College as of Fall 2025. He received his M.A. and B.A. in Economics from San Diego State University (SDSU). He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is interested in researching macroeconomics, labor, and public finance. His work has been published in the *Journal of Urban Economics* and the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

Faculty Affiliates

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, labor economics, health economics, and sports economics. His work has been published in the *Journal of Public Economics*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, and the *Journal of Sports Economics*. His ongoing research blends his applied micro interests with military manpower analysis, exploring the effects of the military retirement system on retention, state-level marijuana policies on recruitment and personnel behavior, and the impact of minimum wages on enlistments. In addition to his academic work, Zach has briefed findings to senior military leaders at the Pentagon. Zach received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of New Hampshire and has been affiliated with CHEPS since its inception.



Shoshana Grossbard is Professor Emerita of Economics at San Diego State University and 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 served as past-president of the Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO).



Faculty Affiliates

Gokhan Kumpas is an Assistant Professor of Economics at California State University, Los Angeles, where he has taught since Fall 2022. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of New Hampshire in 2021, specializing in health economics and policy analysis. His research spans applied microeconomics, with a focus on health, risky behaviors, crime, and education policy. Dr. Kumpas is a faculty affiliate at the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) and Director of the Financial Fitness Program at Cal State LA. He recently served as Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Joseph J. Sabia on a Social Security Administration-funded grant examining disparities in SSI, SSDI, and OASI participation among LGB and non-LGB populations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Kumpas's research has been published in leading journals, including the *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, and *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.



Caterina Muratori is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and an Affiliated Professor at the Barcelona School of Economics. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from Collegio Carlo Alberto in 2022. She is an applied microeconomist with research interests spanning health economics and gender economics, with a particular focus on reproductive policies, gender-based violence, and the economics of risky behaviors. Prior to joining UAB, she was a Postdoctoral Affiliate at the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies (CHEPS) at San Diego State University. Her research has appeared in leading peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of Human Resources*, the *Journal of Health Economics*, and the *Journal of Population Economics*.

Faculty Affiliates

Brandy Lipton is an applied microeconomist specializing in health economics and public policy. Her research examines how health care policies affect health and economic outcomes, often using state-level variation in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program policies. Recent work studies Medicaid optional benefits and their impacts on adult health, labor market outcomes, and children's outcomes. After earning her Ph.D. in economics from Northwestern University, she worked in federal health agencies analyzing national survey data, with publications in journals such as the *Journal of Health Economics* and *Health Affairs*. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Health, Society, and Behavior at UC Irvine and an Adjunct Professor at San Diego State University. She serves on the advisory board for the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies.



Jacob Penglase is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Boston College. Prior to joining SDSU, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Bordeaux and an associate economist at Analysis Group. His research focuses on measuring poverty and individual well-being. His past work has examined consumption inequality among children in the context of child fostering in Malawi. More recent research studied the relationship between poverty and household size in Bangladesh. His work has appeared in *Economic Journal*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, and *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.



Faculty Affiliates

Xuechao (Jane) Qian is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Ball State University. She previously held postdoctoral positions at UC Irvine (2024–2025) and Stanford Graduate School of Business (2022–2024), and earned her Ph.D. in Economics from The Ohio State University in 2022. Her research spans labor and health economics, focusing on the health care workforce and higher education institutions. Using quasi-experimental methods and large datasets, she studies how these systems affect access to care, population health, and innovation. Her work has been published in *AEA: Papers and Proceedings*, *Health Economics*, and the *Journal of Population Economics*.



Julia Zhu is an Assistant Professor of Economics and CHEPS Faculty Research Fellow at San Diego State University. She 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). Currently, her job market paper is at the revise-and-resubmit stage at the *Economic Journal*. She has also published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Postdoctoral Affiliates

Jooyoung Kim is a Postdoctoral Affiliate at San Diego State University's Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS). His research interests span labor, health, and urban economics. Prior to joining CHEPS, he was a visiting faculty member at St. Lawrence University. Jooyoung received his Ph.D. in Economics from Syracuse University in 2024, where he was a Graduate Research Associate at the Maxwell School's Center for Policy Research. He has an ongoing revise-and-resubmit at the *Journal of Health Economics* and several National Bureau of Economic Research Working Papers.



Tessie Krishna is a Postdoctoral Affiliate in Economics at the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) at San Diego State University. She will be a faculty member at Montclair State University in Fall 2026. Her research interests lie in the fields of crime & risky behaviors, health, and labor economics. She earned her Ph.D. in Economics from Rutgers University, where she served as a research assistant to Dr. Amanda Agan and as a course instructor. She has also held teaching appointments as a lecturer at Princeton University and gained additional applied policy experience as a data analyst intern with the Office of the Assistant Attorney General in the New Jersey Division of Law's Affirmative Civil Rights & Labor Enforcement Section. Dr. Krishna holds master's degrees in Economics from both Rutgers University and the University of Texas at Austin, as well as an M.B.A. from the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode.

Postdoctoral Affiliates

Anwar Assamidanov is a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Health, Society, and Behavior at the Joe C. Wen School of Population and Public Health, University of California, Irvine. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Claremont Graduate University. An applied health economist, his research examines how Medicaid policy shapes access, provider participation, and health outcomes for underserved populations. His current work investigates the economic drivers of physician participation in Medicaid, the downstream effects of coverage design on health and labor market outcomes, and the consequences of California's landmark Medi-Cal expansions for costs, access, and the health care workforce.



Eduardo Ignacio Polo-Muro, Ph.D., is a lecturer in the Department of Economics at San Diego State University and a Research Affiliate at the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS). He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of the Basque Country (2021), where he also completed a postdoctoral fellowship. Eduardo has held research positions at the University Pablo de Olavide and was a Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar at the University of California, San Diego (2022-2024). He is a member of the BIRTE research group. His research focuses on the interplay between public policy and labor markets, with particular attention to health, immigration, and household consumption.

Research Affiliates

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 in 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, primarily researching 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 policy journals including *Economics of Education Review*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, and *Journal of Population Economics*.



Drew McNichols received his Ph.D. from the University of Oregon. He is an applied microeconomist 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.



Doctoral Affiliates

Isaac Baumann is a second-year Economics Ph.D. student at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He hopes to explore research interests in a variety of applied economics fields, including education, crime, and public economics. Isaac received an M.A. in Economics from San Diego State University in 2021 and was a CHEPS student research assistant from 2019-2020.



Matt Braaksma received his B.A. in Accounting with a minor in Economics from Eastern Washington University and an M.A. in Economics from San Diego State University. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota. His interests include environmental resource economics, natural resource economics, and developmental economics.

Tony Chuo is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at The University of Texas at Austin. He completed his M.A. in Economics at San Diego State University in Spring 2025. At CHEPS, Tony developed his empirical research skills through various projects with The Center, including work on disparities in response to e-cigarette taxation among queer youth, the impacts of e-cigarette taxation on youth and adult body weight, and other ongoing work regarding tobacco control policy effectiveness. He has enjoyed his time at CHEPS and would like to continue in the field of health economics.



Doctoral Affiliates

Russ Leonard is a Ph.D. candidate in economics at UCI, broadly interested in public/urban/labor topics, particularly those involving the internet and its infrastructure. His current work explores user responses to abusive online peers and their measurement, as well as quality competition between legacy and fiber-optic broadband internet providers. He has also co-authored papers on public health insurance and youth risky behaviors. Russ holds a B.A. in economics and philosophy from the University of Colorado-Boulder and an M.A. in economics from San Diego State University. Outside of work, he enjoys hiking, fishing, and cooking.



Rebecca Margolit is a second-year Ph.D. student of economics at Cornell University. She is interested in labor, health, and applied Econometrics. Prior to starting her Ph.D., she was a predoctoral research assistant at the University of Notre Dame, and completed her master's degree at SDSU while also working as a CHEPS research assistant.

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, health economics, and public policy.



Doctoral Affiliates

Diletta Migliaccio is a Ph.D. student in the Economics and Quantitative Methods program at the University of Genoa, where she specializes in health economics. She was a Visiting Doctoral Fellow at CHEPS in Spring 2025. Diletta's research focuses on vaping and consumer risk perception, with a particular interest in behavioral responses to e-cigarette-related policies. Her work at CHEPS explores how public health interventions shape individual choices in the context of emerging nicotine products.



Cameron Milani received his B.A. in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his M.A. in economics from San Diego State University. He is currently a fifth-year Ph.D. student in Economics at Claremont Graduate University. His interests are in urban economics and environmental economics, particularly the human capital impacts of homelessness.

Christian Pryfogle is a first-year Ph.D. student in economics at the University of Oregon. Outside of his coursework, he enjoys walking and biking in the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest (unless it is raining). Prior to this, Christian earned both his B.A. and M.S. in economics at San Diego State University. During his master's level studies, he worked as a pre-doctoral research assistant with CHEPS, contributing primarily to projects related to electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) policies and use.



Doctoral Affiliates

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 is a third-year Ph.D. student in Public Administration and Policy at the University of Georgia. He holds both a B.A. and M.A. in Economics from San Diego State University. His research focuses on health policy, substance use disorders, and how public institutions shape health care access, delivery, and outcomes.

Joaquin Arellanes earned his undergraduate degree in Business Economics from the University of California, Riverside, and will be attending the University of Georgia in the Fall of 2026 to pursue a Ph.D. in Public Policy. He received his M.S. in Economics from SDSU. At CHEPS, he has gained early experience assisting with data cleaning and supporting preliminary stages of research. Joaquin is interested in applied economics and enjoys learning about the research process. In his free time, he enjoys movies and reading.



MS Affiliates

Hannah Le is a second-year Master's student in Economics at San Diego State University and a predoctoral research assistant with the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies. In 2025, she graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics/Economics and a minor in Atmospheric and Oceanic Science. Hannah's research interests include energy, environmental, and developmental economics.



Elijah Welton is a second-year Master's student in economics at San Diego State University and a predoctoral research assistant with the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies. Welton is interested in applied microeconomics with a focus on labor, education, and health. He graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 2025 with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and History.



MS Affiliates



Sonia Paredes is a first-year Master's student in Economics at San Diego State University and a predoctoral research assistant at the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies. She received her bachelor's from Smith College in 2023, studying Quantitative Economics and Statistical and Data Sciences. She is broadly interested in applied microeconomics. Outside of work, you can find her volunteering, watching films, or out and about, casually cycling or walking.

Zachary Patterson is a rising first-year student at Duke University who will start his Master's in Economics at San Diego State University in Fall 2026. Patterson will serve as a predoctoral research assistant with the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies. Patterson will graduate with a BA in Economics and Public Policy. His research interests include international economics, political economy, and housing economics.



Recent Affiliate Publications

Arnesen, Emily, and Kyutaro Matsuzawa. Forthcoming. “Sports Betting Legalization Amplifies Emotional Cues & Intimate Partner Violence.” *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

Beland, Louis-Philippe, Dongwoo Kim, Jason Huh, and Kyutaro Matsuzawa. Forthcoming. “Curbing Pretextual Stops: Police Efficiency and Racial Disparities.” *Journal of Public Economics*.

Burkhauser, Richard V., Drew McNichols, and Joseph J. Sabia. Forthcoming. “Minimum Wages and Poverty: New Evidence from Dynamic Difference-in-Differences Estimates.” *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

Chesney, Alex J. 2025. “Failing to Finish: The Role of Employer Effects on Advanced Education Attainment.” *Economics of Education Review*.

Churchill, Brandyn, Bijesh Gyawali, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2025. “Anti-Bullying Laws and Weight-Based Disparities in Suicidality.” *Health Economics* 34(11): 1977–2003.

Chuo, Tony, Chad Cotti, Charles Courtemanche, J. Catherine Maclean, Erik Nessen, and Joseph J. Sabia. Forthcoming. “The Effects of Cigarette and E-Cigarette Policies on Queer Youth.” *Journal of Health Economics*.

Cotti, Chad, Charles Courtemanche, Yang Liang, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Erik Nesson, and Joseph J. Sabia. Forthcoming. “The Effect of E-Cigarette Flavor Restrictions on Tobacco Use.” *Journal of Health Economics*.

Dave, Dhaval, Catherine Maclean, Yang Liang, Joseph J. Sabia, and Matthew Braaksma. Forthcoming. “Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence from E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities.” *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Dave, Dhaval, Catherine Maclean, Yang Liang, Caterina Muratori, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2025. “The Effect of E-Cigarette Taxes on Substance Use.” *Journal of Health Economics*.

de Lucena, Thiago. Forthcoming. “Leadership & Gender Composition in Managerial Positions: Evidence from the Brazilian Public Sector.” *Journal of Human Resources*.

de Lucena, Thiago, Kangoh Lee, and Eduardo Polo-Muro. Forthcoming. "Migrant Deaths, EU Citizens' Immigration Attitudes, and Policy Dilemma." *Canadian Journal of Economics*.

Fe, Hao T., Yang Liang, and Mary E. Lovely. 2025. "Follow Thy Neighbor: The Role of First Exporters." *Journal of Urban Economics*.

Ferrazares, Toshio, Joseph J. Sabia, and D. Mark Anderson. 2025. "Have U.S. Gun Buyback Programs Misfired?" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 44(4): 1211–1249.

Fone, Zach, Gokhan Kumpas, and Joseph J. Sabia. "Recreational Marijuana Laws and Racial Disparities: New Evidence on Arrests and Deaths of Despair." *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Grossbard, Shoshanna. 2025. "Spouses as Home Health Workers, Childcare Workers and Cooks: Insights for Applied Research." *Economics & Human Biology*.

Hansen, Benjamin, Joseph J. Sabia, and Jessamyn Schaller. Forthcoming. "Schools, Job Flexibility, and Married Women's Labor Supply." *Journal of Human Resources*.

Leonard, Russell S., and Joseph J. Sabia. 2026. "Do Vertical ID Laws Curb Teenage Drinking and Tobacco Use?" *Contemporary Economic Policy*.

Leonard, R., and B. J. Lipton. 2026. "The California 2020 Medi-Cal Expansion to Young Adults and Coverage Among Noncitizens." *JAMA Network Open*.

Liang, Yang, Dhaval M. Dave, Caterina Muratori, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2025. "The Effects of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Employment and Earnings." *Journal of Population Economics*.

Lillard, Dean, Joseph J. Sabia, Zihao Sheng, and Casey Warman. Forthcoming. "The Effect of School Disruptions on Parental Labor Supply: Evidence from Canadian Panel Data." *Journal of Labor Economics*.

Matsuzawa, Kyutaro. 2025. "The Deterrent Effect of Targeted and Salient Police Enforcement: Evidence from Bans on Checkpoints for Driving under the Influence." *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Matsuzawa, Kyutaro, Daniel I. Rees, Joseph Sabia, and Rebecca Margolit. 2025. "Minimum Wages and Teenage Childbearing in the United States." *Journal of Applied Econometrics*.

Muratori, Caterina. 2025. “Is TRAP a Trap? The Impact of Abortion Access on Violence Against Women and Their Children.” *Journal of Human Resources*.

Muratori, Caterina, and Joseph Sabia. Conditionally accepted. “Anti-Bullying Laws and Youth Risky Health Behaviors.” *Journal of Population Economics*.

Penglase, Jacob, and Sözbir, Ömer F. 2025. “Are households Pareto efficient? A test based on multiple job holding.” *Labour Economics*, p.102841.

Polo-Muro, Eduardo and Javier Gardeazabal. 2025. “Household Consumption Responses to Unanticipated Labor Market Transitions.” *Review of Economics of the Household*.

NBER Working Papers

Aksu, Ege, Charles J. Courtemanche, Dhaval M. Dave, Daniel L. Dench, Michael Grossman, Jooyoung Kim, Selen Ozdogan, Shubhsri Rajendra, Joseph J. Sabia, and Henry Saffer. 2025. “The Effect of Online Sales Bans on E-Cigarette Use.” NBER Working Paper No. 34565.

Cotti, Chad D., Dhaval M. Dave, Tessie Krishna, Erik T. Nesson, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2026. “Do Informal Social Markets and Online Sellers Help Youths to Avoid E-Cigarette Taxation?” NBER Working Paper No. 34880.

Courtemanche, Charles J., Tessie Krishna, Yang Liang, Joseph J. Sabia, and Anthony Chuo. 2025. “Do Vaping Taxes Tip the Scale? The Effect of E-Cigarette Taxation on Obesity.” NBER Working Paper No. 33890.

Dave, Dhaval M., Jooyoung Kim, Nikolaos Prodrromidis, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2026. “School Vaping Bans and Youth E-Cigarette Use.” NBER Working Paper No. 34805.

Hansen, Benjamin, Kyutaro Matsuzawa, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2024. “In-Person Schooling and Juvenile Violence.” NBER Working Paper No. 33317.

Liang, Yang, Joseph J. Sabia, and Dhaval M. Dave. 2025. “Robots and Crime.” NBER Working Paper No. 33603.

Yörük, Barış K., Joseph J. Sabia, Tessie Krishna, and Dhaval M. Dave. 2025. “Health Insurance Protections and Ex Ante Moral Hazard in Risky Health Behaviors.” NBER Working Paper No. 33935.

Notable Research Grants

Principal Investigator: **Joseph J. Sabia**

Global Action to End Smoking

Project Title: "Assessing the Efficacy of Increasing Access to Tobacco Harm Reduction Products: New Evidence on Intended and Unintended Effects"

Dates: March 2024–March 2027

Total Grant Award: \$1,647,714



Principal Investigator: **Kyutaro Matsuzawa**

Arnold Ventures

Project Title: "Statewide Pretextual Stop Restriction and Social Welfare"

Duration: August 2025-August 2026

Total Grant Award: \$126,300

Principal Investigators: **Eduardo Polo-Muro (Co-PI); Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes, University of California, Merced (Co-PI)**

Arnold Ventures

Project Title: "Immigration Enforcement, Sanctuary Policies, and Procedural Justice in U.S. Immigration Courts"

Dates: May 2025 - June 2026

Total Grant Award: \$78,700



Principal Investigator: **Brandy Lipton**

National Eye Institute (NEI), National Institutes of Health

Project Title: “Impact of Routine Eye Care Coverage on Access to Eye Care and Fall-related Outcomes among Low Income Medicare Enrollees” (R01 EY033746).

Dates: June 2022 – May 2026

Total Grant Award: \$2.00 million

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), National Institutes of Health



Project Title: “Effect of Hearing Aid Insurance Coverage Requirements for Adults on Utilization”

Dates: April 2022 – March 2026

Total Grant Award: \$275,154.

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

Project Title: “Impact of Medicaid Pregnancy Dental Benefits on Dental Care Access among Pregnant People and Young Children”

Dates: April 2024 – March 2028

Total Grant Award: \$1.82 million

William T. Grant Foundation

Project Title: “Impact of Paid Sick Leave Mandates on SSI and SSDI Participation among Children”

Dates: January 2026 - December 2026

Total Grant Award: \$50,000



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