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Academic Appointments

2015 – Present Private Enterprise Research Center Rex B. Grey Associate Professor of Economics, Texas A&M University
2011 – Present Associate Professor of Economics, Texas A&M University
2006 – 2011 Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Pittsburgh

Research Appointments

2015 – Present Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research
2013 – Present Research Fellow, IZA
2011 – 2015 Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research

Editorial Positions

2015 – Present Associate Editor, *Journal of Human Resources*

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Florida, August 2006
Dissertation Advisor: David Figlio

B.A. Economics, Hope College (*summa cum laude*), June 2001

Research Interests

Applied Microeconomics, including Labor Economics, Law and Economics, and the Economics of Education

Publications

“Peer Quality and the Academic Benefits to Attending Better Schools (with Pierre Mouganie and Yaojing Wang), forthcoming in *Journal of Labor Economics*.

“Cash for Corollas: When Stimulus Reduces Spending” (with Steven L. Puller and Jeremy West), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2017, 9(3): 1 – 35.

“Illegal Immigration, State Law, and Deterrence” (with Sandra Orozco-Aleman), *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 2017, 9(2): 228-252.

“Vehicle Miles (Not) Traveled: Why Fuel Economy Requirements Don’t Increase Household Driving” (with Jeremy West, Jonathan Meer, and Steven L. Puller), *Journal of Public Economics* 2017, 145: 65-81.

“Are School Counselors an Effective Education Input?” (with Scott E. Carrell), *Economics Letters* 2014, 125(1): 66-69.

“Bank Privatization, Finance, and Growth” (with Daniel Berkowitz and Koen Schoors), *Journal of Development Economics* 2014, 110: 93-106.

“Does Strengthening Self-Defense Law Deter Crime or Escalate Violence? Evidence from Expansions to Castle Doctrine (with Cheng Cheng) *Journal of Human Resources* 2013, 48(3): 821-854.

“Family Business or Social Problem? The Cost of Unreported Domestic Violence” (with Scott E. Carrell) *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management* 2012, 31(4): 861-875.

“Is Poor Fitness Contagious? Evidence from Randomly Assigned Friends” (with Scott E. Carrell and James West) *Journal of Public Economics* 2011, 95 (7-8): 657-663.

“The Ticket to Easy Street? The Financial Consequences of Winning the Lottery” (with Scott Hankins and Paige Marta Skiba) *Review of Economics and Statistics* 2011, 93 (3): 961-969.

“Does Drinking Impair College Performance? Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Approach” (with Scott E. Carrell and James West) *Journal of Public Economics* 2011, 95 (1-2): 54-62.

“Does High School Quality Matter? Evidence from Admissions Data” (with Daniel Berkowitz) *Economics of Education Review* 2011, 30 (2): 280-288.

“Lucky in Life, Unlucky in Love? The Effect of Random Income Shocks on Marriage and Divorce” (with Scott Hankins) *Journal of Human Resources* 2011, 46 (2): 403-426.

“Externalities in the Classroom: How Children Exposed to Domestic Violence Affect Everyone’s Kids” (with Scott E. Carrell) *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2010, 2 (1): 211-228.

“The Effect of Attending the Flagship State University on Earnings: A Discontinuity-Based Approach” *Review of Economics and Statistics* 2009, 91 (4): 717-724.

Other Publications

“Domino Effect” (with Scott E. Carrell). 2009. *Education Next*: 9 (3). Available at http://www.hoover.org/publications/ednext/Domino_Effect.html.

Working Papers

“The Impact of College Diversity on Behavior Toward Minorities” (with Scott E. Carrell and James West)

“The Long-Run Effects of Disruptive Peers” (with Elira Kuka and Scott E. Carrell)

“When Should We Trust Weighted Least Squares Estimates?” (with Cheng Cheng)

Work in Progress

“The Electoral Impact of Voter Identification Laws” (with Vijetha Koppa)

“Safer Cars or Safer Drivers? The Effect of Vehicle Size on Passenger Safety” (with Steven L. Puller and Jeremy West)

“Assessing the Causal Link between Low Incomes and Domestic Violence: Evidence from Random Income Shocks” (with Cheng Cheng)

“Gender Discrimination in Jury Conviction Decisions” (with Brittany Street)

Awards

IZA Young Labor Economist Award, 2012 (with Scott E. Carrell)

Research Grants

University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research (with Scott E. Carrell), 2008-2009, \$20,000

Teaching Experience

Texas A&M University:

Sports Economics ([link to syllabus](#))

Labor Economics I (PhD-level) ([link to syllabus](#))

Public Economics I (PhD-level)

University of Pittsburgh:

Labor Economics (PhD-level), Sports Economics, Intermediate Public Finance, Industrial Organization, and Research Methods in Empirical Microeconomics

University of Florida:

Public Finance and Managerial Economics

Selected Media Coverage

Cash for Corollas: When Stimulus Reduces Spending

“Did the Cash for Clunkers Stimulus Programme Reduce New Vehicle Spending?” [VoxEU Column](#), September 3, 2014

“Strangely, Fiscal Stimulus Can Be So Badly Designed That It Reduces Aggregate Spending”, [Forbes](#), August 5, 2014

“Stimulus for Clunkers”, [The Wall Street Journal](#), August 6, 2014

“Putting cars into reverse”, [The Economist](#), August 7, 2014

“True Cost of Cash for Clunkers revealed”, [San Francisco Chronicle](#), August 13, 2014

“A Clunker of a Program”, [U.S. News & World Report](#), August 14, 2014

Does Strengthening Self-Defense Law Deter Crime or Escalate Violence? Evidence from Expansions to Castle Doctrine

“Report: ‘Stand Your Ground’ laws lead to increase in homicide”, [Chicago Tribune](#), June 11, 2012

“Study finds ‘stand your ground’ laws increase murder rates”, [Houston Chronicle](#), June 12, 2012

“Point Person: Our Q&A with Mark Hoekstra on ‘castle doctrine’ laws”, Dallas Morning News, June 22, 2012

“Election silence over Trayvon Martin and America’s Guns”, BBC Panorama, October 15, 2012

“‘Stand Your Ground’ Linked to Increase in Homicides”, NPR, January 2, 2013

“Educating for Democracy: A Modest Proposal on Reducing Gun Violence”, Huffington Post, January 24, 2013

“Why Holder’s probe of ‘stand your ground’ laws stands out”, Christian Science Monitor, July 17, 2013

Blogs: Wall Street Journal Ideas Market Blog, Wall Street Journal Law Blog

The Effect of Attending the Flagship State University on Earnings: A Discontinuity-Based Approach

“Does It Matter Where You Go to College?”, The Atlantic, May 17, 2012

“Increasing College Opportunity for Low Income Students: Promising Models and a Call to Action”, The White House Report, January 2014

Other Papers:

“Your Friends Are Making You Fat and Lazy”, New York Times: Economix Blog, November 9, 2010

“Lotto Lessons for Homeowner Bailouts”, New York Times: Economix Blog, January 9, 2009

“Bailouts Don’t Work: The Lotto Winners Study”, Huffington Post, September 7, 2010

“How Lotto Winner End Up Bankrupt”, Fox Business Network, March 30, 2011

“Falling (rising) incomes and personal irresponsibility, on recent Charles Murray debates”, Marginal Revolution, February 8, 2012

“Home Economics: Marriage Rates and the Lottery”, Slate Moneybox Blog, February 9, 2012

“Externalities in the Classroom: How Children Exposed to Domestic Violence Affect Everyone’s Kids”, Freakonomics, July 31, 2008

Department Service

Executive Committee (Fall 2011 – Fall 2014; Fall 2016 – Spring 2017)

Graduate Instruction Committee (Fall 2012 – Spring 2016)

Director of PhD Admissions (Fall 2012 – Spring 2015)

Director of PhD Program (Fall 2012 – Fall 2014)

Applied Microeconomics Search Committee (2011-12, 2012-13, 2014-15)

Primary Dissertation Advisor (Initial Placement)

(Non-tenure track positions and co-advisor roles are noted if applicable; excludes committee assignments)

Brittany Street (expected 2019)

Abigail Peralta (expected 2018)

Vijetha Koppa (2016, Stephen F. Austin State University)

Jillian Carr (2015, Purdue University)

Pierre Mouganie (2015, American University of Beirut)

Gonzalo Sanchez (2015, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Ecuador)

Cheng Cheng (2014, University of Mississippi)

Presentations

Annual Meeting of the Western Economic Association, June 2017; University of Leicester, June 2017; University of Leicester Domestic Violence Workshop, June 2017; American University of Beirut, March 2017; University of Uppsala, March 2017; Montana State University, April 2016; American University of Beirut, March 2016; Columbia University, February 2016; Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association Meeting (January 2016); Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association (November 2015); NBER Education Program Meeting (November 2015); Brigham Young University, February, 2015; Federal Reserve Bank of New York, February, 2015; Stata/Texas Applied Microeconomics Conference, November 2014; University of Florida, November, 2014 (scheduled); Louisiana State University, October 2014; Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), October 2014; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, October 2013; Ghent University, September 2013; University of Texas – Dallas, April 2013; Stata/Texas Applied Microeconomics Conference, December 2012; Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2012; University of Texas-Austin, April 2012; Georgetown Public Policy Institute, April 2012; University of Missouri, October 2011; Baylor University, August 2011; Texas A&M University, November 2010; University of Houston, October 2010; University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Psychiatry and Epidemiology Seminar, October 2009; NBER Summer Institute, Law and Economics Program, July 2009; University of California at Davis, April 2009; University of California at Berkeley Labor Lunch, March 2009; American Economic Association Annual Meetings, January 2009; Texas A&M University, September 2008; Carnegie Mellon University, September 2008; NBER Summer Institute, Economics of Education Program, July 2008; Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting, May 2008; Vanderbilt University, April 2008; NBER Education Working Group, November 2006

Other Information

Referee: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Journal of Health Economics, American Sociological Review, Berkeley Electronic Press, Contemporary Economic Policy, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Economics of Transition, Education Economics, Education Finance and Policy, Empirical Economics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Sports Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Labour Economics, Quantitative Finance, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Review of Economics and the Household, Review of Economics and Statistics, and Southern Economic Journal.*

Reviewer: National Science Foundation

Citizenship: United States