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Lynn Bergeland Morgan

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EDUCATION

University of Texas at Dallas, Ph.D. Candidate in Economics	2019- 2024 (expected)
University of North Texas, M.S. in Economics	2011-2013
Texas Christian University, B.S. in Economics and Political Science Summa Cum Laude	2003-2007

FIELDS

Applied Econometrics, Health Economics, Public Economics, Labor Economics

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

Long-Run Determinants and Idiosyncratic Factors of Social Security Disability Insurance Benefit Rates

Despite general improvements in health, advances in medical technology, and the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the percentage of working-age adults receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) increased nearly 150% from 1986 to 2013. In 2013, nearly one in twenty working-age adults was out of the labor force and receiving SSDI. After 2013, however, the increasing trend reversed, and the number of SSDI recipients has been persistently falling since. I find that the percentage of the population ages 55 and 59 drives the long-run trend in national SSDI rates. State and county SSDI rates follow the same common national trend, but there is a large degree of idiosyncratic variation. In 2013, state SSDI rates ranged from 2.75% to 8.6%, and county rates ranged from 0.64% to 21.28%. My results show median household income, age demographics, and application rates explain 84.5% of the variation in SSDI rates between states. I show that labor market conditions contribute to county-level variation. Specifically, exposure to negative county-level employment shocks lead to growth in county SSDI rates two to five years later, indicating SSDI not only explicitly insures workers against disability, but also implicitly insures workers, particularly lower skilled workers, against employment loss.

Working Papers

Policy Evaluation with Nonlinear Trended Outcomes: COVID-19 Vaccination Rates in the US
Lynn Bergeland Morgan, P.C.B Phillips, D. Sul

This paper discusses pitfalls in two-way fixed effects (TWFE) regressions when the outcome variables contain nonlinear and possibly stochastic trend components. If a policy change shifts trend paths of outcome variables TWFE estimation can distort results and invalidate inference. A robust solution is proposed by allowing for dynamic club membership empirically using a relative convergence test procedure. The approach allows for policy evolution and shifts in outcomes according to a convergence cluster framework with transitions over time and the possibility of eventual convergence to a single cluster as policy impacts mature. The long-run impact of a policy can thus be examined via its impact on convergence club membership. An application to new weekly US Covid-19 vaccination policy data reveals that Federal-level vaccine mandates produced a merger of state vaccination rates into a single convergence cluster.

Works in Progress

County-Level Pollution Exposure and Future Disability Rates
Decomposing State New Covid-19 Vaccination Rates (with D. Sul)
Dynamic Convergence Clustering Mechanism (Stata Program)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, University of Texas at Dallas Spring 2022-Spring 2023
ECON 2302, Principles of Microeconomics

Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Dallas Fall 2019 - Fall 2021, Fall 2023
ECON 3311, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Professor Donggyu Sul
ECON 6306, Applied Econometrics, Professor Kurt Beron
ECON 3315, Sports Economics, Professor Kurt Beron
ECON 3312, Money and Banking, Professor Victor Valcarcel
ECON 2301, Principles of Macroeconomics, Professor Victor Valcarcel

Adjunct Professor of Economics, Texas Christian University Fall 2014 - Spring 2019
ECON 30233, Intermediate Macroeconomics
ECON 10233, Introductory Macroeconomics
ECON 10223, Introductory Microeconomics

Adjunct Professor of Economics, Weatherford College Fall 2014 - Fall 2018
ECON 2302, Principles of Microeconomics
ECON 2301, Principles of Macroeconomics

Teaching Fellow, University of North Texas Fall 2012
ECON 1110, Principles of Macroeconomics

Teach for America Corps Member, Denver Public Schools Fall 2007 - Spring 2009
9th and 10th grade math teacher

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Distinguished Instruction by a Teaching Assistant Award, UT, Dallas 2023

Economics Department Scholarship, University of North Texas 2012-2013

CSAP Student Test Scores Exceed Expectations Bonus, Denver Public Schools 2008, 2009

Phi Beta Kappa, Texas Christian University 2007

Senior Scholar of Economics (awarded annually to one student), Texas Christian University 2007

Dean's scholarship, Texas Christian University 2003-2007

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDES SCHEDULED)

2023: Southern Economic Association Annual Conference (presenter), American Society of Health Economists Annual Conference (poster), CINCH-dggö Academy in Health Economics (presenter)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Donggyu Sul, University of Texas at Dallas Summer 2021

Research Assistant, Michael McPherson, University of North Texas Fall 2011 - Spring 2011

Research Assistant, Janice Hauge, University of North Texas Fall 2013

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Contributor to American Society of Health Economists Newsletter “Plenary and Awards Luncheon and Follow up Interviews with the 2023 Award Winners”	Fall 2023
<i>Successfully Navigating Your PhD</i> , Health economics mentoring workshop (mentee)	Fall 2023
Annual Retirement and Disability Research Center Meeting (attendee)	Fall 2023
Reviewer: <i>Journal of Economic Surveys</i>	Spring 2023
Federal Reserve of St. Louis Women in Economics Symposium (attendee)	Spring 2021

OTHER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Universidad de Sevilla, study abroad	Spring 2006
The University of Colorado, Boulder, non-degree coursework in mathematics	Summer 2005

AFFILIATIONS

American Economic Association
American Society of Health Economists
Southern Economic Association

OTHER

Programming:

Proficient in Stata (and MATA), Matlab, Microsoft Excel, and L^AT_EX
Experience with R

Languages: English (native), Spanish (intermediate)

Citizenship: United States

REFERENCES

Donggyu Sul (Chair)
John Kain Professor of Economics
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