Joshua Witter, Ph.D.

ECONOMIST

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Education

Texas A&M University *College Station, TX*

DOCTORATE OF ECONOMICS *May 2020*

Brigham Young University *Provo, UT*

BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS, MINOR IN MATHEMATICS *December 2014*

Technical Skills

Programming Stata, Python, R, Matlab, HTML, C++, LaTex

Econometrics Difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity, instrumental Variables, fixed effects, synthetic control, propensity score matching, panel data and time series analysis, discrete choice modeling

Research Methods Causal Inference using quasi-experimental, field experiments, lab experiments, and machine learning methods

Research Experience

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints *Salt Lake City, UT*

RESEARCHER 2 (FULL-TIME) *April 2020 - PRESENT*

- Led remote interdisciplinary research teams to evaluate and rate program and policy effectiveness using information from econometric analysis, field experiments, survey research, psychometric methods, interviews, and focus groups.
- Developed models of job candidate and employer decision-making when faced with modifiable factors such as job quality. Models are being validated and refined over time
- Developed metrics of intervention success to improve job quality for job seekers and retention for employers.
- Conveyed advanced mathematical concepts, measures, and results to non-technical audiences through research briefs, reports, emails, and presentations (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or in-person).
- Learning machine learning with Python through Coursera to expand research abilities.

Texas A&M University - Economics Department *College Station, TX*

PH.D. STUDENT, TEACHING ASSISTANT, RESEARCH ASSISTANT *Sept 2015 - May 2020*

- Conducted secondary research with historical data to capture revealed preferences of low-income workers faced with federal and state policy changes.
- Tested economic theory with lab experiment to study contributions to public goods.
- Planned and conducted field experiment to research gender bias in business-consumer transactions.
- Presented research at several conferences in the US, as well as Toronto, and Beijing
- Received department research award for project using instrumental variable methods to study the long-run impact of minimum wages on teen employment.
- Awarded 'Graduate Student Instructor of the Year' after teaching Microeconomic Theory course to undergraduates

Texas A&M University- Bush School of Government *College Station, TX*

RESEARCH ASSISTANT (FULL-TIME) *May 2018 - August 2018*

- Awarded Special Sworn Status through Census Bureau to conduct research with restricted versions of Census microdata
- Researched the impact of state Medicaid policies on retirement decisions

Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research *Palo Alto, CA (Remote)*

RESEARCH ASSISTANT (FULL-TIME) *May 2017 - August 2017*

- Wrote and submitted grant proposal. Awarded grant from National Institute of Aging.
- Merged government, private, and public data to research the impact of state Medicaid policies on prescription drug utilization, health, and mortality

Brigham Young University *Provo, UT*

RESEARCH ASSISTANT (PART-TIME) *Jan 2012 - Jan 2015*

- Conducted original research using advanced econometric methods to look at the impact of interventions on family formation, health, and education outcomes
- Learned and implemented Python web scraping and geocoding tools to build unique datasets
- Collected, cleaned, and analyzed field experiment data to research how incentives affect healthy eating behaviors in elementary-aged children.