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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of Notre Dame	Expected May 2011
M.A., Economics, University of Notre Dame	January 2008
B.A., Economics, Earlham College	May 2005

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Labor, Public, Urban, and Environmental Economics

WORKING PAPERS

“The Effect of Car Ownership on Employment”
“Political Budget Cycles in US Municipalities” (with Shawn R. Moulton)
“The Effect of Damming on Fishery Production on the Kafue River, Zambia” (with Andrew M. Deines, Richard A. Jensen, and David M. Lodge)
“The Effect of Housing Assistance on Household Consumption Bundles”

WORK IN PROGRESS

“How Do Families Spend Their EITC Checks? Evidence from the 1993 Expansions” (with Craig L. Garthwaite and William N. Evans)
“The Invasivore’s Dilemma” (with Andrew M. Deines, Matthew A. Barnes, and Sheina Sim)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, and Fall 2010
Mentor, NSF-IGERT/GLOBES Research Experiences for Undergraduates, Summer 2009
Teaching Assistant, Graduate Microeconomic Theory, Fall 2008

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Professor Richard Jensen, Fall 2008 and Spring 2009
Research Assistant, Professor Daniel Hungerman, Fall 2008 and Spring 2009
Research Assistant, Professor Kali Rath, Spring 2008
Research Assistant, Professor Thomas Gresik, Fall 2006 and Spring 2007

AWARDS

NSF-IGERT/GLOBES Fellowship, 2006-2011
Graduate Assistantship, University of Notre Dame, 2006-2011
Graduate Summer Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, 2006-2010

REFEREE

Journal of Human Resources

PRESENTATIONS

“Political Budget Cycles in US Municipalities” (with Shawn R. Moulton)

- Economics Department Brownbag. University of Notre Dame, April 2011.

“The Effect of Damming on Fishery Production on the Kafue River, Zambia” (with Andrew M. Deines, Richard A. Jensen, and David M. Lodge)

- IGERT.org Online Poster Competition, April 2011.

“The Effect of Car Ownership on Employment”

- Midwest Economics Association Annual Meetings. St. Louis, Missouri, March 2011.
- Conference on “The Impact of the Economy and Social Programs on the Most Vulnerable,” sponsored by the Seng Foundation. University of Notre Dame, August 2010.
- Midwest Economics Association Annual Meetings. Evanston, Illinois, March 2010.
- Economics Department Brownbag. University of Notre Dame, October 2009.
- Economics Department Seminar. Earlham College, October 2009.

“The Effect of Housing Assistance on Household Consumption Bundles”

- Second-Year Paper Presentations. University of Notre Dame, October 2008.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Economic Association, Midwest Economics Association

REFERENCES

William N. Evans	James X. Sullivan	Richard A. Jensen
University of Notre Dame	University of Notre Dame	University of Notre Dame
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ABSTRACTS

“The Effect of Car Ownership on Employment”

Various economic theories suggest that one reason for low rates of employment among low-skill, inner-city residents is that they are spatially separated from jobs that have moved out to the suburbs. To test this, I exploit variation in state “prior approval” insurance rate regulation that has been shown to suppress auto insurance prices, thereby decreasing the cost of owning a car. I find that rate regulation increases the proportion of multi-car households among married couples with children. In those households, I find that the additional car in the household encourages mothers to decrease their labor supply while their husbands increase their labor supply. One possible explanation of this result is that second cars are stronger complements to time spent in home production (and especially childrearing) than they are to time spent in the labor market.

“Political Budget Cycles in US Municipalities” (with Shawn R. Moulton)

According to the political budget cycle hypothesis, in election years government officials engage in opportunistic fiscal policy manipulation for electoral gains. This paper tests that hypothesis at the local level, testing for cycles both in the overall levels of taxes and spending and in the composition of taxes and spending. We match municipal fiscal data

to dates of mayoral elections in 268 US cities over the period 1970-2004. While our estimates provide no evidence of altered total expenditures or taxes in election years, we do find evidence of election-year manipulation in the composition of expenditures. Election-year education expenditures increase by 10.3 percent. Additionally, we find a 0.7 percent increase in total municipal employment, including increases in police, education, and sanitation employment. We conclude that officials are more likely to induce cycles in the provision of more salient public goods, and that balanced budget requirements may attenuate these cycles.

“The Effect of Damming on Fishery Production on the Kafue River, Zambia” (with Andrew M. Deines, Richard A. Jensen, and David M. Lodge)

This paper tests for trade-offs between fisheries and hydropower production in a tropical floodplain fishery under these “environmental flow” scenarios on the Kafue River, Zambia. To determine the relationship between water regime and fishery production, we compile catch per unit effort, total harvest, and monthly-mean hydrographs from the Kafue River for the years 1955-1996 and develop population growth models to test for effects of density dependence, total fisheries harvest, and water regime. We find that pre-dam studies’ correlations between harvest and flood regime in the pre-dam era do not hold along hydrograph dimensions influenced by damming. In addition, the most likely models for the time series of fish density did not contain parameters associated with floods. This suggests that fisheries production on the Kafue River has not been substantially impacted by changes in flood regimes caused by damming. The most likely models, however, all contained terms for density dependence and/or total harvest, implying that fishing effort is the principal driver of the observed patterns in catches both before and after dam construction. Under the most likely model, it does not appear that changes in dam operation to provide environmental flows would be beneficial to fisheries.

“The Effect of Housing Assistance on Household Consumption Bundles”

How do expenditure patterns change when households receive in-kind transfers? This paper examines trends in spending patterns of households in assisted housing and public housing using two decades of data from the Consumer Expenditure Survey. I focus in particular on the three periods divided by the start of the HOPE VI program of 1993 and the enactment of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. In contrast to the previous literature, I find that households receiving in-kind housing assistance reduce out-of-pocket housing costs and spend some of the transfer on non-housing goods, particularly transportation.

PERSONAL

U.S. citizen. Born February 1, 1983, in Centralia, Illinois.

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