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BUSINESS ADDRESS:

Department of Economics
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DESIRED RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS:

PRIMARY

Labor Economics
Development Economics

SECONDARY

Applied Microeconomics

FIELDS OF CONCENTRATION:

Labor Economics, Development Economics

DISSERTATION TITLE: "Essays on Labor Economics in the Middle East"

Expected Date of Completion:	May 2026
Principal Advisor:	Professors Christopher Walters and Supreet Kaur
Other References:	Professors Patrick Kline and Ted Miguel

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:

University of Georgia
University of Georgia

DEGREE

B.A., *summa cum laude*
B.A., *summa cum laude*

DATE

2018
2018

FIELD

Economics
Arabic

JOB MARKET PAPER:

Job Amenities, Adverse Selection, and Women's Labor Supply in Jordan

Abstract: Can job amenities induce adverse selection? When workers' willingness to pay (WTP) for job amenities is negatively correlated with unobserved productivity, offering amenities instead of higher wages can disproportionately attract less productive workers. If adverse selection is severe, firms may underprovide amenities even when WTP exceeds cost. This is especially relevant in developing contexts like Jordan where women face barriers to accessing the labor market, some of which could be overcome by firm amenities like childcare or transportation. Working with a Jordanian research firm that hires all female survey enumerators, I combine administrative firm records on worker productivity with a survey eliciting individual level WTP for job amenities such as childcare, transportation, and preferred pay schemes. For all amenities except childcare, the least productive workers have the highest willingness to pay. This negative correlation is particularly large for transportation, and cannot be fully explained by income, location, commuting costs, or any other observable. To assess the empirical magnitude of this adverse selection, I develop a novel monopsony model that allows job amenities to increase labor supply and differentially select more/less productive workers. The model shows that mandating firm-provided transportation while allowing wages to adjust downward would increase employment, due to workers' large WTP for the amenity, but would lower average worker productivity via negative selection. The net effect is a reduction in firm profit. However, allowing workers to sort into high wage/no amenity or low wage/with amenity contracts could increase profit, employment, and worker utility simultaneously.

WORKING PAPERS:

Economic and Social Impacts of Entering the Labor Market During a Recession: Evidence from Egypt (*in preparation*)

Abstract: Relatively little is known about the effects of entering the labor market during a recession for young people in developing countries. Using novel, newly digitized historical unemployment rates from Egypt stretching back to 1968, I estimate the long run labor and marriage market effects of entering the labor market during a period of high unemployment. I find effects which reflect the same kind of economic scarring found in high income countries, but which manifest differently in this setting due to the differences in the "job ladder". Men experience reductions in employment for 2 years after entry, but the long run effect on employment is actually positive. This increase is mostly driven by an increase in self-employment without any employees, often a form of disguised unemployment. Male recession entrants are also less likely to ever have a formal wage work job, an effect which is strongest for college graduates. In terms of family formation, both men and women turning 18 during a recession experience delays in entering marriage. However, there is some suggestive evidence that this benefits women: female recession entrants are more likely to complete secondary education and experience increased decision-making in their marriages.

Housing Subsidies for Refugees: Experimental Evidence on Life Outcomes and Social Integration in Jordan (with Abdulrazzak Tamim, Emma C. Smith, Edward Miguel, Samuel Leone, Sandra V. Rozo, and Sarah Stillman) *NBER Working Paper 33408*

Abstract: Refugees require assistance for basic needs like housing but local host communities may feel excluded from that assistance, potentially affecting community relations. This study experimentally evaluates the effect of a housing assistance program for Syrian refugees in Jordan on both the recipients and their neighbors. The program offered full rental subsidies and landlord incentives for housing improvements, but saw only moderate uptake, in part due to landlord reluctance. The program improved short-run housing quality and lowered housing expenditures, but did not yield sustained economic benefits, partly due to redistribution of aid. The program unexpectedly led to a deterioration in child socio-emotional well-being, and also strained relations between Jordanian neighbors and refugees. In all, housing subsidies had limited measurable benefits for refugee well-being while worsening social cohesion, highlighting the possible need for alternative forms of aid.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**RESEARCH:**

Research Assistant, Department of Economics, U.C. Berkeley (2020-2023)

Professor Ted Miguel

Senior Research Specialist, Department of Economics, Princeton University (2018-2020)

Professors Leah Boustan, Alex Mas, David Lee, and Will Dobbie

TEACHING:

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, U.C. Berkeley (Fall 2023- Spring 2024)

Intermediate Microeconomics

NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE:

Critical Threats Project, Washington, D.C (Summer 2016)

Research Intern

- Researched crisis in Yemen using local Arabic media and published daily and bi-weekly analytical assessments

U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C (Spring 2016)

Arabian Peninsula Affairs Intern

- Wrote classified report on Al Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula's oil revenue that prompted a policy shift

PRE-DOCTORAL PUBLICATIONS:

"Can Experiential Games and Improved Risk Coverage Raise Demand for Index Insurance? Evidence from Kenya"

With Sarah Janzen, Nicholas Magnan, Conner Mullally, Karl Hughes, Judith Odoul, and Soye Shin, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, vol. 103 (1), 2021.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:

2020 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

2018 Most Outstanding Student in the Terry School of Business, UGA Honors Program

2018 Outstanding Achievement in Economics (UGA Economics Dept.)

2018 Hollingsworth Award (UGA Math Dept.)

2018 Phi Beta Kappa

2014-18 Foundation Fellowship, University of Georgia (UGA)

RESEARCH GRANTS:

Fundraised \$60,000+

As PI: CEGA Development Economics Challenge Grant (x3), The Weiss Fund Piloting Grant, International Growth Centre Small Grant, Berkeley Economists for Equity (BEE) Small Grant

OTHER INFORMATION:

Languages: English (native), Modern Standard Arabic (intermediate), Levantine Arabic (intermediate)

Citizenship: United States