ALDEN PORTER
270 Bay State Road
Boston MA 02215 USA
Cell: (207) 256-0798
Fax: (617) 353-4449
Email: porteraw@bu.edu
Web site: http://aldenporter.com/

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2022 (expected)
Dissertation Title: *On the Causes and Consequences of Occupational Mobility*
Dissertation Committee: Pascual Restrepo, Johannes Schmieder and Kevin Lang

B.S., Economics *(Summa Cum Laude)*, Rochester Institute of Technology,
Minors: Mathematics, Mandarin
Rochester, NY, 2016

The General Course, London School of Economics,
London, England, 2015

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics

PUBLICATIONS

Porter, Alden and Amitrajeet Batabyal (2016) "Physical Capital Mobility, the Educational and Quality Aspects of Creative Capital, and Output Production," *Regional Science Policy and Practice*, 8: 167-175.

WORKING PAPERS

"Finding the Right Fit: How Skill Mismatch Impacts Wage Growth" September 2021. Job Market paper.
"Generalized Measurement Error and Occupational Misclassification" September 2021.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Optimal Freedom Dividends in a Model of Search and Skill"
"Product Market Externalities and Distortions in the Skill Distribution"
"Future Policy and Information Dissemination: A Natural Language Processing Approach" (joint with Stefano Pica)

PRESENTATIONS

Rochester Institute of Technology Economics Seminar, Rochester NY 2021 (scheduled)
IAB Brown Bag Presentation, Nuremberg (Remote) 2021
BU Macro Dissertation Workshop, Boston, MA, 2021 2020 2019 2018
BU Applied Micro Dissertation Workshop, Boston, MA, 2021 (Summer, Fall)

BU Empirical Micro Reading Group 2020 2019
BU Macro Reading Group 2021 (Spring, Summer) 2020

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dean's Fellowship, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017
Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar, Rochester Institute of Technology, Spring 2016

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Pascual Restrepo, Boston University, Winter 2019
Research Assistant for Tarek Hassan, Boston University, Fall 2017- Spring 2018
Analysis Intern, Competitive Energy Services (via Blackstone Innovate for Maine), Summer 2014
Intern, Great Works Internet (via Blackstone Innovate for Maine), Summer 2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Game Theory, BU Summer Challenge, Boston University, Summer 2021
Teaching Fellow, Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis, Department of Economics, Boston University, 2019-2021 (Spring)
Teaching Fellow, Microeconomic Theory, Department of Economics, Boston University, 2018-2020 (Fall)
Mathematics Instructor grades 3-9, Intercultural Community Center, Summer 2016

LANGUAGES English (native) Mandarin (elementary)

COMPUTER SKILLS: Python (including Pandas, Numpy, Scikit-learn, Matplotlib, Regex, bs4), STATA, LaTeX, R, julia, MATLAB, HTML, git, vim, SQL.

CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS: USA

REFERENCES

Professor Pascual Restrepo
Department of Economics
Boston University
Phone: (617) 353-6824
Email: pascual@bu.edu

Professor Johannes Schmieder
Department of Economics
Boston University
Phone: (617) 358-5923
Email: johannes@bu.edu

Professor Kevin Lang
Department of Economics
Boston University
Phone: (617) 353-5694
Email: lang@bu.edu

ALDEN PORTER

Finding the Right Fit: How Skill Mismatch Impacts Wage Growth (Job Market Paper)

I leverage a 2% sample of the German Social Security Data to study how wages change around different kinds of labor market transitions. The results are consistent with idiosyncratic matching at the occupation, but not the employer, level. For men, wages increase by .055 log points following a voluntary employer transition that does not involve an occupation transition and .101 log points following voluntary employer transition that does involve an occupation transition. I build a model where workers differ in their cognitive, manual, and interactive skills, which creates comparative advantage in certain occupations. I estimate this model and show that most of the wage gains for young workers following an occupational transition are due to improved matching of worker skill with occupation tasks, and not movements along an occupational ladder. Women also see 12% larger comparative advantage gains than men, suggesting the aggregate productivity gains from equalizing employment opportunities are underestimated by a pure absolute advantage model.

Generalized Measurement Error and Occupational Misclassification

Recent literature has emphasized the importance of changes in occupation, i.e. occupational mobility, for both personal and aggregate outcomes. Despite the abundant literature on occupational classification error, there is no mathematical formalization for how misclassification impacts occupational mobility estimates. This paper fills that gap by generalizing the classical notion of measurement error in a way that can be applied to changes in discrete classification. In this framework mobility probabilities are ambiguously biased, and I provide theoretical results giving conditions under which the bias can be signed. In this context regressions on the mobility variable will also be ambiguously biased. I apply these results to the Current Population Survey (CPS) and show that misclassification in occupation leads to overestimation of the occupational mobility rate, and rising measurement error leads to a spurious rise in raw occupational mobility estimates from 2005 onward.