

SHOMIK GHOSH

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2023 (expected)

Dissertation Title: *Essays on Labor Economics*

Dissertation Committee: Daniele Paserman, Linh Tô, and Kevin Lang

B.A., Economics and Statistics, (*Cum Laude*), Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 2017

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Gender Economics, Development Economics

WORKING PAPERS

“[Bridging the Gap: The Effect of Licensing and Professional Certification on the Gender-Wage Gap](#)” September 2022. Job Market paper.

“[The Right to Counsel at Scale](#)” (joint with Patrick Power and Markus Schwedeler), September 2022

WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Impact of Coronavirus on Time in the Home: Do Men Win or Lose?”

“Generalizing Across Clusters” (joint with Patrick Power and Markus Schwedeler)

PRESENTATIONS

American Economics Association, New Orleans, LA, 2023 (scheduled)

Empirical Microeconomics Workshop, Boston University, Boston, MA, 2022 (scheduled)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Risk Management Analyst Intern, PNC Bank, Pittsburgh, PA, 2016

Research Assistant for Karel Mertens, Cornell University, January 2016 – May 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Labor Economics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2023

Instructor, Labor Economics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2022

Head Teaching Fellow, Principles of Microeconomics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2022

Teaching Fellow, Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2020 – Fall 2021

Teaching Fellow, Masters Health Economics I, Department of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2021

Teaching Fellow, Principles of Microeconomics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2018 – Spring 2020

COMPUTER SKILLS: STATA, R, LaTeX

CITIZENSHIP: United States

REFERENCES

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Bridging the Gap: The Effect of Licensing and Professional Certification on the Gender-Wage Gap (Job Market Paper)

Despite advances in workplace protection and gender equality, the gender wage gap is still a prominent feature in the workplace. In this paper, I construct a model to examine the individual choice that leads to one investing in a license or certification and propose different mechanisms through which the gender wage gap can manifest. Additionally, I study the effect of occupational licensing and professional certification on the gender wage gap using 2014 survey data made available by the US Census. I have found that, in several industries, women who possess a license or a certification receive a lower return on wages than men who possess a license. This is true even in industries where women dominate men, such as teaching and nursing. Furthermore, I employ an Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition technique to determine if licensing does indeed close the gender wage gap. While not universal, in certain industries, this investment in additional skills does seem to have a small but significant effect towards closing the wage gap between women and men.

The Right to Counsel at Scale (with Patrick Power, Markus Schwedeler)

The recent events of Covid-19 and rising inflation have magnified the importance and fragility of housing for low-income individuals. In response to this, we empirically assess the effectiveness of an initiative growing in popularity across the US known as the Right to Counsel (RTC). Aiming to combat the 3.6 million eviction filings each year in the U.S., a RTC ensures access to free legal representation for low-income individuals facing eviction. Complimenting the small, but growing Economic literature on this topic, we consider the indirect effects of this policy. Exploiting the staggered roll-out across the state of Connecticut, we assess the extent to which this policy may increase housing instability by making it harder for those currently unhoused to find permanent housing. Using data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, we find little evidence to suggest that such a policy has adverse effects at scale as some have speculated.

Generalizing Across Clusters (with Patrick Power, Markus Schwedeler)

Applied microeconomic work involves making tradeoffs – assessing which issues are first order, and which can potentially be addressed in an appendix or not at all. Based on the deep learning works of Finn et al. (2017) and Kelly et al. (2020), and in the language of category theory, we introduce a unified structure that allows one to think through these tradeoffs (as the structure generalizes OLS, allows for nonparametric cluster effects, and is inherently compositional even under regularization). We apply this framework to a variety of applied microeconomic contexts estimating average, local, and heterogeneous treatment effects.