ERNEST DORILAS

Department of Economics
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
Georgia State University
14 Marietta Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30303-2813

Visa: F1 Status
Cell: (678) 644-9924
Email edorilas1@student.gsu.edu
ernestdorilas@yahoo.fr
ernestdorilass3@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Georgia State University,
Ph.D. in Economics — May 2021 (Expected)

Georgia State University,
Master of Arts in Economics (GPA: 4.11 out of 4.3) — May 2017 (Graduated)

State University of Haiti (CTPEA)
Bachelor's in Economics applied to Statistics — November 2011 (Graduated)
Top in Economics program

OTHER RELATED TRAINING

Central Bank of Haiti (Laureate Program) — June 2015
6-month Competition
Certificate in Economics & International Affairs

International Monetary Fund (IMF) — June 2014
Certificate in Energy Subsidy Reform

Georgia State University
Certificate in Tax Policy, Fiscal Analysis, and Revenue Forecasting — June 2013

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Health Economics and Public Economics

RESEARCH

Working Papers:
"Marijuana Laws Exposures and Teenage Pregnancy Outcomes"
"The effect of Age of Consent Laws on The Age at First Pregnancy" (With Nicholas Wright)
"The impact of handheld legislation on traffic fatalities: Evidence from a temporal Regression Discontinuity Design" (With Nicholas Wright)

EMPLOYMENT

Teaching:

1. John Hopkins University, Center for Talented Youth Program.

Course: Mathematics of Money, Summer 2017.

2. State University of Haiti
   Courses: National Accounting, Inferential Statistics (2011 to 2015)

3. Quisqueya University Institute of the Americas (Haiti)
   Courses: Descriptive Statistics, Probability (2011 to 2015)

***Professional Experience**:*

- University Fellow -Second Century Initiative, Georgia State University, 2019- Present
- Graduate Research- Teaching Assistant, Georgia State University, January 2016-2019
- Ministry of Economy and Finance of Haiti, Economist-statistician, Sept. 2012- Dec. 2015
- Clinton Health Initiative Access, Investigator& HIV Analyst, January-May 2012

AWARDS & HONORS

- Scholarship for the 2019 Annual Health Econometrics Workshop ($400)
- Second Century Initiative (2CI) University Doctoral Fellowship (2019) ($22,000)
- Mark E. Schaefer Graduate Fellowship 2017 ($100)
- Highest GPA in Master of Arts in Economics at GSU 2017 (4.11 out of 4.30)
- Academic Excellence Award ($3000) (From 2017 to 2019)
- 2nd Valedictorian of Central Bank of Haiti Laureate Program
- 1st Laureate of Economics Department, CTPEA, UEH, 2011
- 1st Laureate of Economics Department, CTPEA, UEH, 2010
- Laureate of Youth Parliamentary, South Department of Haiti, 2006

CONFERENCE & PRESENTATION

- 2019 Annual Health Econometrics Workshop, University of Tennessee Knoxville.
- Allied Social Science Associations Program (ASSA 2019), Atlanta, Georgia.
- Georgia State University - Summer Brownbags - ***Presenter*** of "The effect of Age of Consent Laws on The Age at First Pregnancy".

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP& ACTIVITIES

- Wall Street Journal Young Professionals Network
- Golden Key International Honor Society
- Vice President Terebinth of Justice Christian Group, 2015
- 2019 SACHAYF Soccer league Champion, Team Captain
- Captain of Senior Year Soccer Team 2010, (CTPEA, UEH).

COMPUTER SKILLS & LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- Stata, Latex, Matlab, R, Eviews, SPSS, SAS & Microsoft Office
- English, French, Creole, and Basic Spanish.

Ernest Dorilas
3570, Morinda Drive
Douglasville, GA 30135

October 4th, 2019

National Bureau of Economic Research
Health Economics Research Boot Camp
1050 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138-5398

Dear Responsible,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the Health Economics Research Boot Camp at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). I am a third-year Ph.D. student in Economics and a Second Century Initiative (2CI) University Doctoral Fellow at Georgia State University (GSU). My research utilizes quasi-experimental methods to study Health and Public Economics. Considering my academic background and my experiences in teaching and the public sector, I believe that I possess a distinctive set of skills that prepares me for the workshop. I am confident that the 2019 NBER Health Boot Camp is an excellent next step to enhance my career development.

I graduated from the State University of Haiti with a Bachelor's in Applied Economics with a concentration in Statistics, and I completed a Master's in Economics from Georgia State University with a focus in International Economics. I previously worked at the Economic Department Research of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Haiti for almost four years. During my time at the Ministry, I was responsible for important projects such as the Energy Subsidy Reform of 2014 in collaboration with the World Bank. I have also worked at the Clinton Foundation as an Investigator and HIV analyst. Furthermore, I've taught Economics and Statistics at the State University of Haiti and Universite Quisqueya-Amerique for four years. As a former employee of the Ministry of Finance in Haiti, I can bring a developing country perspective to the table whenever different health issues and healthcare systems are being discussed.

I am working on a three-chapter dissertation where the first chapter (job market paper) uses hospital closures and consolidations effective dates information to merge onto BRFSS data to study the long-term effects of hospital closures and consolidations on women's reproductive health outcomes in the U.S. The second chapter draws on the American Community Survey (ACS) to evaluate the effect of teenage pregnancy on health outcomes for both the mother and the child, exploiting variation from statutory rape laws. Finally, the third chapter investigates how marijuana laws affect teenage pregnancy outcomes, such as live birth and abortion. My first chapter proposes to utilize variation from hospital closures and consolidations, and this type of supply-side, industrial-organizational research is not heavily emphasized in my current Ph.D. program; therefore, I see the NBER boot camp as being particularly useful opportunity for me to acquire skills in this area to advance my dissertation research.

Outside of my dissertation research, I am working on several other research projects in health economics. For example, I am currently working with Dr. Michael Pesko on calculating the size of tobacco surcharges in the individual marketplace across states, counties, and ages. We will merge this surcharge data onto survey data from the NHIS to assess the impact of these surcharges changes on tobacco use and health insurance coverage. I also have a paper that is recently posted (https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3454814) on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) assessing the impacts of Handheld Legislation on Traffic Fatalities using the Temporal Regression Discontinuity Design.

I believe that my experiences, current research, and the current gaps in my knowledge make me a great choice for the NBER boot camp. I am enthusiastic and have a flexible attitude concerning work assignments and learning from the presenters and my peers. Dr. Michael Pesko will be writing a letter of recommendation for me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ernest Dorilas.

Ernest Dorilas, Ph.D. Candidate
Third-Year Ph.D. Candidate in Health Economics
University Fellow- Second Century Initiative
Georgia State University

Two-page essay explaining the rationale for attending the boot camp. It should include a brief description of the application current and future research direction.

My three-chapter dissertation research focuses on the economics of women's sexual and reproductive health in the U.S. My first chapter investigates the long-term effects of hospital closures and consolidations on women's reproductive health outcomes in the United States. My second paper examines the impacts of teenage pregnancy on health outcomes exploiting exogenous variation from statutory rape laws while my third research study evaluates the effects of marijuana laws on teenage pregnancy outcomes such as live birth and abortion.

According to Cutler and Morton (2013), there is a robust literature showing that hospital mergers raise prices. As hospital services become more expensive from supply-side mergers, the quantity demanded of reproductive services may decrease provided that demand for reproductive health care remains constant and there is movement along the demand curve from the supply-side shift. Also, hospital closures are likely to impact premium and out-of-pocket payments for consumers. I hope to learn some things from the NBER Boot Camp on how to leverage this type of supply-side variation in hospital merger activity, which is not a central focus of the health economics program at Georgia State University (GSU). I believe that the 2019 NBER health Boot Camp is the perfect occasion for me to learn this critical set of knowledge and write an excellent job market paper.

Understanding the empirical knowledge in industrial organizations is of great importance for health economists. The more I read, the more I realize that it is not possible to clearly understand the health supply market without a good grasp of the underpinnings of provider and insurer market structure. At the end of the boot camp, I expect to have practical knowledge of the insurer market power, hospital market power, hospital organizational structure, hospital competition and management, hospital-insurer bargaining aspect, insurer competition, optimal hospital networks, vertical integration, etc.… I believe that Industrial Organization is the piece that I lack to complete my overall understanding of the U.S health care system.

The second chapter of my dissertation is a two-stage model, where the first stage exploits exogenous variation in statutory rape to study the effect of teenage pregnancy on health outcomes for both the mother and the child. So far, the first stage results show that statutory rape laws are strongly and negatively associated with teenage pregnancy. Regarding the third chapter, my results show that medical marijuana laws are associated with an increase in reported legal abortion for teenagers of less than 20 years old, while the decriminalization of marijuana is related to a decrease in the birth rate for teenage girls between 15 and 19 years of age. These results are consistent with the literature on the effect of marijuana on fertility issues. Contrary to Baggio et al. (2018), this study suggests that physiology outperforms behavior. To date, I am using a fairly standard set of instrumental variable model techniques and I am wondering if there are more state-of-the-art techniques out there for instrumentation that I could learn at the NBER boot camp and integrate into my dissertation.

Furthermore, I am proactively working on other projects, such as the impact of tobacco surcharges on tobacco use and health insurance coverage with Dr. Michael Pesko. I have another working paper with Dr. Nicholas Wright that is looking at the effect of handheld legislation on traffic fatalities. My future research will be mostly on Medicare-related issues.

The boot camp comes at a good time in my career as a student. I will have completed all of my Ph.D. classes, and I am working of my dissertation. Through this critical workshop, I am confident that I will gain invaluable and practical knowledge which will deepen my understanding of the field of health economics at one of the finest research institutions in the United States, the NBER.

ERNEST DORILAS
Third-Year Ph.D. Candidate in Health Economics
University Fellow- Second Century Initiative
Georgia State University

Economic Theory Classes

ECON 9010: Microeconomics Analysis I (FALL 2017)

ECON 9020: Macroeconomics Analysis I (FALL 2017)

ECON 9030: Microeconomics Analysis II (SPRING 2018)

ECON 9040: Macroeconomics Analysis II (SPRING 2018)

History of Economic Thought

ECON 8500: History of Economic Thought (SPRING 2019)

Mathematical and Statistical Tools

ECON 8030: Mathematics for Economists (FALL 2017)

ECON 9710: Mathematical Statistics (Econometrics I) (FALL 2017)

ECON 9720: Econometrics II (SPRING 2018)

ECON 9730: Advanced Econometrics (FALL 2018)

Applied Economics Classes

ECON 8470: International Public Economics (SPRING 2016)

ECON 8899: Causal Inference and Evidence Based Policy (FALL 2018)

ECON 9080: Topics in Macroeconomic Theory (FALL 2018)

ECON 9220: Advanced Labor Economics (FALL 2019)

ECON 9450: Advanced Public Economics I (FALL 2018)

ECON 9460: Advanced Public Economics II (SPRING 2019)

ECON 9510: Dissertation Workshop (FALL 2019)

ECON 9530: Communicating Evidence (FALL 2019)

ECON 9610: Health Economics I: The Economics of Health Care Supply (FALL 2019)

ECON 9620: Health Economics II: Demand for Health and Health Care (SPRING 2019)

MACROECONOMICS COMPREHENSIVE EXAM PASSED: SUMMER 2018

MICROECONOMICS COMPREHENSIVE EXAM PASSED: FALL 2018

FIELD COMPREHENSIVE EXAM PASSED: SUMMER 2019

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

404-413-0141 TEL
404-413-0145 FAX

www.andrewyoungschool.org

14 Marietta Street NW
Suite 524
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mail:
Department of Economics
P.O. Box 3992
Atlanta, Georgia 30302-3992

Georgia State University | ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES

October 6, 19

Dear Colleague:

It is my pleasure to strongly recommend **Ernest Dorilas**, a third-year PhD student in the Department of Economics at Georgia State University (GSU), for acceptance to the NBER health economics boot camp. I first met Ernest this past spring when he took my demand-side health economics course. I was impressed with Ernest's enthusiasm and empirical skills. Ernest exhibits an understanding of health economics research that is far beyond what I would expect from a third-year graduate student. Through various class presentations he gave on published papers and his own empirical research paper that he submitted for the class, it is clear that he has a great general understanding of quasi-experimental methods and how they can be used to minimize potential sources of omitted variable bias. He was able to integrate these methods well for his class paper, which was the best in the class. Prior to coming to GSU he worked for the Central Bank of Haiti for four years, which may explain his high-level of comfort and natural confidence with economics concepts and research.

For the class research paper that Ernest wrote for my demand-side health economics course, Ernest downloaded American Community Survey data from IPUMS for years 2001 to 2013, a period of time in which there was significant variation in age of sexual consent laws. He explored the impact of age of sexual consent laws (e.g. 16, 17, or 18), close in age exemptions, and mistake of age defense provisions on the probability that a teenager of a certain age gave birth in the past year. He found evidence that states enacting an age of consent of 18 (compared to 16) decreases the likelihood of having a child at 17 year or less by 0.46 percentage points (pp) or 7.7% relative to the baseline means. He controlled for a standard set of control variables and provided evidence through an event study that the parallel trends assumption was met. As mentioned earlier his paper was the best in the class.

Ernest's interest in fertility and reproductive health has formed the backbone of his proposed dissertation research. While his dissertation chapters are still fluid (he is only in his 3rd year of the PhD program), he is currently planning to write a dissertation around fertility and how this is affected by hospital closures/mergers, marijuana laws, and statutory rape laws. Ernest could really benefit from the NBER Boot Camp by learning cutting-edge methods for studying supply-side changes in the healthcare delivery landscape and potentially learning more advanced methods for performing instrumental variable and difference-in-difference modelling.

Ernest is also working with me on an American Cancer Society-funded project evaluating the effect of tobacco use surcharges in the individual health insurance marketplace on tobacco use and health insurance coverage outcomes. For this project, Ernest is assembling detailed information on the dollar amount of tobacco use surcharges for individual market plans sold over healthcare.gov at the county-by-age level. We will then merge this average tobacco use surcharge information onto NHIS data to evaluate the effect of the surcharge size on tobacco use and health insurance outcomes. While I have only been working with Ernest on this project for a little over a

month, I can tell already that he is performing at a high level. My coauthors and I are happy to be working with him on this.

In conclusion, I consider Ernest to be an excellent choice for the boot camp. He will be an enthusiastic contributor and the knowledge he gains will really help him to advance his dissertation research. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance at mpesko@gsu.edu.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Pesko, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor