Senan Hogan-Hennessy

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NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp (IRBC) 29 January 2023

I write in application to attend the NBER's IRBC in 2023. I am in the third year of a PhD in the Department of Economics at Cornell University, where I focus on empirical economics and applications in labor economics.

This year I worked on a project relating changes in the composition of faculty at US universities, shifting away from tenured professors towards contingent lecturers, to falls in state funding for higher education. I use a shift-share IV strategy to identify the effects of (negative) shocks to state funding on public universities' faculty composition, and found that a 10% fall in state funding causes a 4.4% increase in contingent lecturers and a fall of 1.2% in tenured professors, explaining 40% of the observed composition change since 1990. Incumbent professors do not seem to be affected, so that the change in composition likely arises via changes in the hiring rate of new faculty or lecturers (Hogan-Hennessy 2022). Additionally, recent results suggest that newly-unionized lecturers at the University of Illinois Chicago were insulated from wide-spread salary cuts during the 2017 Illinois government shutdown, relative to non-unionized lecturers at other universities. I am currently working on an extension to my project to measure how effective faculty unions are in insulating incumbent faculty from the effects of state funding shocks.

My recent research studied a highly educated labor market from a classic labor economics perspective, studying outcomes such as employee composition at universities and professors' tenure and wages. This approach follows my primary focus and exposure in empirical and labor economics, following my experience in these areas. Yet, there are likely effects on research innovation and productivity in my research setting: professors with greater job security may be freer to pursue innovative research, and they be drawn towards universities that experience fewer financial shocks to conduct their innovative research. The NBER IRBC will be a great opportunity to learn more about the economic study of innovation (absent similar courses at Cornell), which will help me expand my project studying US faculty to further outcomes, showing that the impact of falls in state funding extend beyond classic labor economic outcomes.

Thank you for your time in reading my application to the NBER IRBC. I hope that the summer camp will be a good first exposure to the field of innovation, and complement my work in empirical and labor economics. Additionally, it will be a great opportunity to meet contemporary graduate students from other universities, to gain perspective on the viability of my above research idea, and possibly even to collaborate on future projects on the intersection of empirical, labor, and innovation economics. Douglas Miller[1] has agreed to support my application with a recommendation letter.

References

Hogan-Hennessy, S. (2022), 'Changes in Faculty Composition and Stagnating State Support for Higher Education'. https://github.com/shoganhennessy/state-faculty-composition.

[1]Cornell University Professor, NBER Research Associate, and my PhD advisor. Email: dlm336@cornell.edu

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Education

Cornell University (in progress) Last updated: 27 January 2023
Ph.D. Economics, expected 2025
Primary advisor: Professor Douglas Miller
Research areas: Empirical economics, labour economics

Pomona College
B.A. Economics + mathematics, 2018

Research Experience

Cornell University, New York USA
Research Assistant, Dyson School of Applied Economics 2022–
Project: Dynamic estimates of food insecurity across the US.
Research Assistant, Institute for Labor Relations 2021–2022
Project: Overlapping measures of hours works, and hourly earnings, for rideshare drivers using multiple sources of administrative data.

Harvard Business School, Massachusetts USA
Research Associate, Economics 2018–2019
Empirical projects on technological change, labour markets, and innovation using historical data. Assistant to Professor Daniel Gross on various economics papers and projects.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University, Economics Department
ECON6590 Applied Econometrics (graduate level), Professor Douglas Miller, 2022

Teaching Assistant, Pomona College, Economics Department
ECON167 Econometrics, Professor Pierangelo De Pace, 2016-2018
ECON101 Microeconomic Theory, Professor John Clithero, 2016
ECON052 Microeconomics, Professor James Lehman, 2015-2016

Other

Citizenship: United Kingdom
Personal Interests: Road cycling and racing, open source software
Programming: R, Python, Julia, Bash, LaTeX

Advising Committee

Douglas Miller (Chair)
Professor, Economics
Cornell University, Economics Department
dlm336@cornell.edu

Zhuan Pei
Associate Professor, Economics
Cornell University, Economics Department
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Evan Riehl
Assistant Professor, Economics
Cornell University, Industrial Labor Relations
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Work in Progress

Hogan-Hennessy, S. (2023). Unionization and the Effects of Representation on Professors and Lecturers at Illinois Public Universities

Hogan-Hennessy, S., Lee, S., and Barrett, C. (2022a). Estimates of US Food Insecurity Dynamics: Measuring Food Insecurity Across the US with a New Synthetic Panel Approach

Working Papers

Hogan-Hennessy, S. (2022). Changes in Faculty Composition and Stagnating State Support for Higher Education. https://github.com/shoganhennessy/state-faculty-composition

Hogan-Hennessy, S., Xenopoulos, P., and Silva, C. (2022b). Market Interventions in a Large-Scale Virtual Economy. *ArXiv working paper*. https://doi.org/10.48550/arxiv.2210.07970

Presentations

Cornell Economics, Labour Work in Progress Seminar 2020, 2021, 2022

Affiliations and Awards

Center for Social Sciences Graduate Affiliate, Cornell University 2021–

Center for the Study of Inequality Graduate Affiliate, Cornell University 2021–

Sage Fellowship, Cornell University 2020–

Lorne D. Cook Memorial Award, Pomona College Economics 2018

Distinction in Undergraduate Thesis, Pomona College Economics 2018

Sutton Trust – Fulbright Programme, London UK 2013–2014

Graduate Coursework, Cornell University 2020–

Microeconomic Theory I (First-year Econ PhD)	Professor David Easley, Fall 2020
Macroeconomics I (First-year Econ PhD)	Professor Mathieu Taschereau-Dumouchel, Fall 2020
Mathematical Economics (First-year Econ PhD)	Professor Mukul Majumdar, Fall 2020
Econometrics I (First-year Econ PhD)	Professor Yongmiao Hong, Fall 2020
Microeconomic Theory II (First-year Econ PhD)	Professor Lawrence Blume, Spring 2021
Microeconomic Theory III (First-year Econ PhD)	Professor Tomasso Denti, Spring 2021
Macroeconomics II (First-year Econ PhD)	Professor Kris Nimark, Spring 2021
Econometrics II (First-year Econ PhD)	Professor Jörg Stoye, Spring 2021

Information Networks (Computer Science)	Professor Jon Kleinberg, Fall 2021
Applied Econometrics I	Professor Douglas Miller, Fall 2021
Causal Inference & Machine Learning in Econometrics	Professor Chen Qiu, Spring 2022
Applied Econometrics II	Professor Zhuan Pei, Spring 2022
Labor Economics	Professor Francine Blau, Spring 2022
Graduate-level Research in Economics	Professor Douglas Miller, Fall 2020–

Cornell Brooks
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January 31, 2023

Dear NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp committee:

I am happy to write a letter of recommendation for **Senan Hogan-Hennessy**, who is applying to participate in this Summer's Innovation Research Boot Camp. Senan is a PhD student in the Economics Department here at Cornell, currently in his third year. He is an empirical microeconomist, with a research focus so far on labor economics and economics of education. He also has interests in econometric methods, and he has a broad curiosity that stands out from many students. I am the chair of his dissertation committee. Senan is at a very good career stage for this boot camp: he has some research ideas under development, but he is still exploring, and I think is primed to be influenced by your group.

I met Senan in Fall 2022 when he took my 2nd year PhD course in Applied Econometrics. He excelled in the course, and I asked him to TA the course this past semester. He was a great TA, able to explain the econometric models in ways that the students understood, and he was an excellent support to them in their projects.

The strengths that Senan has demonstrated to me are in data work, including both econometrics but also "data wrangling". I haven't put him in a position to do theory modeling, so I don't have a direct assessment of his skills in this area. I would guess they are "good" or better, based on his overall analytic skills. He is also a very good presenter, I would rate him at about the 80th percentile (with 100 = best) of PhD students I've seen.

To summarize, Senan is off to a very promising start with his research. He is a good match for this workshop. I expect that he will be strongly influenced by the material covered, and that his subsequent research will contribute to the field and will reflect well on it. If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at: (530) 902-9629; or email at: dlm336@cornell.edu .

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Miller
Professor, Brooks School of Public Policy
Professor, and Associate Chair, Economics
Cornell University

Diversity and inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.