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A short description of the course of graduate study pursued and the years of enrollment in the PhD program

I am a 5th year economics phd student. I took the standard first-year core sequence: microeconomic theory, macroeconomic theory, econometric theory, game theory, applied econometrics. In my second year I took: modern applied econometrics, data science, and labour economics field classes.

A short description of research interests, any research projects that are in process, and when appropriate, a dissertation title, short description, and list of committee members.

I am primarily interested in the intersection of AI and Science.

Current research projects:

I have a paper “Benchmarking the Future of Work: Mapping AI Progress to Occupational Exposure.” Here is the abstract, “Artificial intelligence is advancing at a pace once thought unimaginable, yet we still lack clear tools to understand how these breakthroughs map onto the world of work. This paper introduces a novel framework that systematically links AI benchmark progress - the scoreboards that track frontier capabilities - to the occupational tasks that define human labor. Unlike patents, surveys, or deployment data, which are often lagged, opaque, or subjective, benchmarks are transparent, replicable, and updated in near real time. Using O*NET as a bridge, we connect benchmark trajectories across domains-including language, reasoning, vision, and multimodal tasks-to 52 human abilities, and translate these into occupation-level indices of AI exposure. The result is a dynamic, task-level methodology that allows us to track and forecast where automation pressures are likely to emerge. By repositioning benchmarks from technical scoreboards to economic indicators, this study offers a fresh lens for anticipating the future of work and shaping policy responses.”

In short, I take all of the AI benchmarks and map them to O*NET tasks, and compare them to human abilities. This allows me to get a forward looking measure of AI exposure for the labour market. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first paper to do this.

Research projects in process

Beyond this, I am currently working on an RCT with Rem Koning (Harvard Business School), where we are evaluating the impact of two AI tools on scientist's productivity. We were recently awarded a $160,000 pilot grant to launch this from Schmidt Sciences.

Dissertation Title: Three essays on the economics of science

Short Description: Two of my papers are more directly relevant to how politics influences science. However, I'm now primarily focused on the impact of AI on science.

'Cancel Culture' Abstract: Public controversies over employee speech where individuals face backlash for expressing views deemed controversial, unpopular, or misaligned with prevailing norms - sometimes colloquially referred to as "cancel culture" - have become increasingly prevalent, yet systematic evidence of their professional consequences remains limited. Leveraging a novel dataset of U.S.-based academics sanctioned for their speech, combined with bibliometric data, we employ a series of difference-in-differences designs to measure the effects on individuals' productivity and recognition. We find that, following these events, affected scholars experience a decline in their future productivity, publishing 20% fewer new papers compared to a comparable set of scholars. Furthermore, affected scholars experience a decline in the recognition of their prior body of work, with citations declining by 4.8%, reflecting a form of peer-to-peer sanctioning. These citation declines are disproportionately driven by scholars who are closely connected to the affected individual, consistent with a mechanism of professional distancing. Our findings highlight the professional and career costs associated with speech sanctioning events.

'Does Politics Permeate Academia? Evidence from a Field Experiment on Political Bias in Academic Opportunity' Abstract: Higher education in the United States is undergoing a period of turbulence, facing mounting scrutiny over the politicisation of academia, declining public trust in universities, and unprecedented changes to the academic funding landscape under the recent Trump administration. Against this backdrop, we ask whether political identity shapes access to academic opportunity. To answer this, we conducted three large-scale field experiments involving more than 8,500 faculty across STEM, the social sciences, and the humanities. Faculty received randomised inquiries from fictitious prospective PhD students that varied only in their political cues. In STEM, political identity had no measurable effect on faculty responses. In the humanities and social sciences, however, applicants signaling conservative leanings were significantly less likely to receive replies than otherwise identical liberal counterparts. These results provide causal evidence that ideological gatekeeping can constrain entry into certain academic fields, which has implications for the rate and direction of academic research, the credibility and political neutrality of higher education, and the design of science policy and funding.

Committee Members:

Abhishek Nagaraj (UC Berkeley)
Christian Fons-Rosen (UC Merced)
Josh Graff Zivin (UCSD)