Application to
NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2026

Jacob Triplett

February 19, 2026

Summary

Name – Jacob Triplett
School – University of North Carolina, Kenan-Flagler Business School
Email – jacob_triplett@kenan-flagler.unc.edu
Website – jacobwtriplett.github.io
Area of interest – PE, VC, Entrepreneurship
Began PhD – Fall 2024
Expected completion – 2028/2029 job market
Faculty letter-writer – Gregory Brown, UNC

Jacob Triplett

jacob_triplett@kenan-flagler.unc.edu
https://jacobwtriplett.github.io

Education

University of North Carolina
Kenan-Flagler Business School — Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Ph.D., Finance — August 2024 - Present
- Research Assistant to Profs. Aymeric Bellon, Vrinda Mittal, and Mirela Sandelescu

Brigham Young University — Provo, Utah
B.S., Economics — August 2017 - June 2022
- Awards: Brigham Young Scholarship (3x); Dean's Honors (2021)

Carnegie Mellon University — Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Non-degree coursework — January 2023 - August 2023

Working Papers/ Works in Progress

1. Aymeric Bellon, Yasser Boualam, David Sraer and Jacob Triplett, "Pollution & Productivity"
2. Vrinda Mittal and Jacob Triplett, "Private Equity and Market Structure"
3. Matthew Denes, Ran Duchin, John Hackney and Jacob Triplett, "Labor Markets in Private Equity"

Research Experience

U.S. Census Bureau — January 2025 - Present
Research Associate
Collaborated with Profs. Aymeric Bellon, Vrinda Mittal, and Xavier Giroud

U.S. Internal Revenue Service - Joint Statistical Research Program — December 2022 - June 2024
Pre-doc for Profs. Matthew Denes, Spyridon Lagaras, and Margarita Tsoutsoura

Carnegie Mellon University, Tepper School of Business — July 2022 - June 2024
Pre-doc for Prof. Matthew Denes

Brigham Young University, Department of Economics — August 2021 - July 2022
Research Assistant for Prof. James B. McDonald

Acknowledgements of Research Assistance

1. Denes, Matthew and Lagaras, Spyridon and Tsoutsoura, Margarita, "The 'Great Reshuffling' and Entrepreneurship." Available at SSRN 4244127 (2025).
2. Denes, Matthew, Spyridon Lagaras, and Margarita Tsoutsoura. "Entrepreneurship and the gig economy: Evidence from US tax returns." Journal of Financial Economics 173 (2025): 104156.
3. Albertus, James F., and Matthew Denes. "Private equity fund debt: agency costs and cash flow management." Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, *forthcoming*.
4. Denes, Matthew, and Duane J. Seppi. "Economic Impact of US Racial Dynamics: Evidence from the Stock Market." Available at SSRN 4005677 (2024).

Teaching Experience

University of North Carolina, Kenan-Flagler Business School
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Gregory Brown
- Private Markets Investing — August 2025 - December 2025

Brigham Young University, Department of Economics
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Joseph McMurray
- Intro to Statistics for Economists — August 2021 - December 2021

Professional Experience

Yoodlize — Provo, Utah
Data Scientist — January 2022 - May 2022

Technical Skills

Programming Languages: `Stata`, `Python`, `SQL`, `Bash`, LaTeX

Data Sources: Bloomberg, BoardEx, Capital IQ, Compustat, CRSP, Crunchbase, Dun & Bradstreet, EPA National Emissions Inventory, EPA Toxic Release Inventory, Judy Diamond, Mergent, MSCI-Burgiss, Nielsen Ad Intel, OpenSecrets, Pew Research, PitchBook, Preqin, Refinitiv (Thompson Reuters), Revelio, Statistics of US Businesses, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Business Dynamics Statistics, US Code of Federal Regulations, US County Business Patterns, US Department of Justice, US Economic Census, US Federal Election Commission, US Federal Trade Commission, US Internal Revenue Service, US Patent and Trademark Office, US Small Business Administration, Wesleyan Media Project, YourEconomy Time Series

Other Skills: Qualtrics Surveys, Fluent Burmese

Software

stackdid: Stacked difference-in-differences regression
Remarkably straightforward stacked difference-in-differences regressions. An assortment of options enable precise model specification and robustness analysis. *paper*, *github*

gintreg: Generalized interval regression
Estimate linear models with possibly nonnormal disturbances and with outcomes measured as point, interval, left-censored, or right-censored data. Specify any of seventeen distributions in the Skewed Generalized t (SGT) family and Generalized Beta of the Second Kind (GB2) family. *github*

1. McDonald, James B., & Triplett, Jacob (2025). gintreg: Generalized interval regression. *The Stata Journal*, 25(1), 51-76. *DOI*

goprobit2: Generalized ordered probit regression
Fit ordered response regression models of ordinal outcomes. goprobit2 extends oprobit by offering a variety of link functions based on the Skewed Generalized t (SGT) family of distributions. *github*

References

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Matthew Denes
Carnegie Mellon University
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Essay

I am a second-year finance PhD student at UNC and sponsored by the Institute for Private Capital. My research primarily touches on private equity, venture capital, entrepreneurship, and the intersection of those areas. As for entrepreneurship, before the program, I spent two years as a pre-doc at Carnegie Mellon University and the IRS, where I contributed to research on the gig economy's effect on firm creation and how the pandemic reshaped who becomes an entrepreneur.

With Matthew Denes, Ran Duchin, and John Hackney, I am studying the forces private equity and venture capital firm managers face when deciding to spin-off and start their own PE or VC shop. With Vrinda Mittal, I am studying private equity's role in industry evolution, using administrative data. A third project, "Pollution and Productivity" with Aymeric Bellon, Yasser Boualam, and David Sraer, applies structural estimation to the tradeoffs firms face when deciding how much to pollute. Administrative data and multiple natural experiments identify causal moments critical to the model.

Going forward, I intend to continue building at this intersection of private markets and entrepreneurship, leveraging administrative data and careful identification. My background in econometrics and machine learning also keeps me alert to settings where methodological contributions can sharpen measurement or identification in meaningful ways.

I want to attend the NBER Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for the intensive work and discussion about the research frontier in this field. Doing so will be critical to advance my research agenda. Learning from the researchers setting this frontier is first best, and networking with peer students in this research community is an invaluable facet as well.

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Prof. Gregory W. Brown
Weatherspoon Distinguished Professor of Finance
Research Director, Institute for Private Capital
(919) 962-9250 *Email:* gregwbrown@unc.edu

February 13, 2026

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

It is my great pleasure to recommend **Jacob Triplett** for the 2026 NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp. I am a Professor of Finance at the University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Business School, where Jacob is currently a second-year Ph.D. student in Finance and has also served as my teaching assistant in Private Markets Investing. He is sponsored by the Institute for Private Capital for which I serve as the faculty research director. I have had the opportunity to observe Jacob closely in both research and teaching settings, and I can say without hesitation that he is an exceptionally strong young scholar whose research agenda is an excellent fit for this program.

Jacob is currently in his second year of the Ph.D. program at UNC. From the outset, he has demonstrated unusual clarity about his research interests and trajectory. His principal areas of interest are private equity, venture capital, and entrepreneurship, and this focus is evident across his completed work, ongoing projects, and longer-term research agenda. He is deeply interested in understanding how entrepreneurial firms are formed, how private capital providers shape firm behavior, and how these dynamics affect labor markets and economic reallocation.

Prior to beginning the Ph.D., Jacob received outstanding training as a pre-doctoral researcher, most notably at Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business including working with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Joint Statistical Research Program. In that role, he contributed substantially to two entrepreneurship papers using administrative tax data: "Entrepreneurship and the Gig Economy: Evidence from U.S. Tax Returns," published in the *Journal of Financial Economics* in 2025, and "The 'Great Reshuffling' and Entrepreneurship," currently available on SSRN (2025), both coauthored with Matthew Denes, Spyridon Lagaras, and Margarita Tsoutsoura . These projects required sophisticated handling of confidential administrative data, careful institutional knowledge, and thoughtful empirical design. I know from my interactions with the authors that his contributions were essential to the success of both papers.

Jacob has continued to build directly on this foundation during his doctoral studies. He is currently a coauthor on a work in progress with Matthew Denes, Ran Duchin, and John Hackney that studies the decision to found private equity and venture capital firms. This project is particularly well aligned with the mission of the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp, as it focuses squarely on

entrepreneurial entry in financial intermediation and the formation of investment organizations themselves. The project combines rich data, careful identification, and a clear link to broader questions about entrepreneurial incentives, market structure, and the supply of private capital.

Across all of his work, Jacob displays an impressive combination of technical skill and economic intuition. He is highly proficient in Stata, Python, SQL, and related tools, and he has coauthored methodological contributions published in The Stata Journal. Yet what distinguishes him most is not just his technical ability, but his intellectual curiosity: he asks the right questions and thinks carefully about identification and mechanisms.

In addition to his research strengths, Jacob is an excellent student and contributor to the intellectual community of PhD students and programs here at Kenan-Flagler and IPC. As my teaching assistant in Private Markets Investing, he was reliable, thoughtful, and highly effective at communicating complex ideas to students in review sessions. In research discussions, he is engaged, open to feedback, and able to synthesize insights from diverse literatures. These qualities will make him an active and constructive participant in the boot camp environment.

From my understanding of the boot camp, Jacob is precisely the type of participant for whom the program is intended. He already has a strong track record of entrepreneurship research using administrative data, a clear focus on PE, VC, and entrepreneurial entry, and multiple active collaborations with leading researchers in the field. I am confident that the boot camp will meaningfully enhance his work, and that he will, in turn, contribute thoughtfully to the program's discussions and research community.

If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Greg Brown

Gregory W. Brown