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University of California Santa Cruz

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**Research Interests**

*Primary:* Causal Inference, Program Evaluation, Health Economics and Policy  
*Secondary:* Machine Learning, Financial Economics, Graph Theory

**Teaching Interests**

*Applied Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics, Microeconomics, Health Economics and Policy*

**Education**

*Ph.D. Candidate in Economics* Sep 2019 - Jun 2025 (exp)  
University of California, Santa Cruz Santa Cruz, CA  
M.A in Economics Awarded in August 2020

*M.Sc Mathematics* August 2019  
Illinois State University Normal, IL

*M.Sc Economics* August 2018  
Illinois State University Normal, IL

*B.S. Economics* June 2016  
University of Tehran Tehran, Iran

**Dissertation Committee**

*Professor Carlos Dobkin (Advisor)*  
[cdobkin@ucsc.edu](mailto:cdobkin@ucsc.edu)  
(831) 459-2079

*Professor Laura Giuliano*  
[lgiulian@ucsc.edu](mailto:lgiulian@ucsc.edu)  
(831) 459-4248

*Professor George Bulman*  
[gbulman@ucsc.edu](mailto:gbulman@ucsc.edu)  
(650) 521-1603

**Job Market Paper**

**Curbing Pharma Influence: The Effect of Marketing Restrictions on Physicians' Prescribing Behavior**

*The impact of direct-to-physician marketing and its regulations on physicians' prescribing behavior is a subject of ongoing debate. While the pharmaceutical industry advocates for the necessity of keeping doctors informed about new drugs through these channels, critics voice concerns about potential distortions in prescribing patterns. To address the possible adverse effects of these interactions, New Jersey implemented a policy in January 2018 imposing significant restrictions on direct-to-physician marketing, including limits on small meal payments and caps on substantial payments*

for consulting and speaking. Using the New Jersey policy as an exogenous source of variation and two federal administrative databases in a difference-in-difference event-study design, I estimate a reduction of about 27% in marketing activities directed at New Jersey doctors compared to their peers in New York and Pennsylvania. Reduced form analyses reveal that prescribers in New Jersey decrease the prescription volume of marketed drugs by approximately 6% across extensive and intensive margins. Moreover, the overall proportion of branded prescriptions decreases by about 0.66 percentage points. The predominant source of the observed behavioral changes originates from prescribers with high level of exposure to pharmaceutical promotions, with no significant change among those with limited or without such engagement. The policy equally affected both new and old drug prescriptions, suggesting that doctor-pharma financial ties may not be purely informational.

## Publications

### **New Jersey's Policy on Pharma Promotions: Shifting to Generics and Curbing Prescription Drug Costs**

*Revise and Resubmit, JAMA Internal Medicine*

### **Quantifying Specific and Systemic Factors in the Black-White Wealth Gap in the United States**

*with Rongchen Liu, Anirban Sanyal and Nirvikar Singh*

*Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Race, Economics and Policy*

<https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3800592>

### **Return and Volatility Spillovers across Western and MENA Countries**

*with Hassan Mohammadi*

*The North American Journal of Economics and Finance, January 2022*

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.najef.2022.101642>

### **An equity-minded multi-dimensional framework for exploring the dynamics of sense of belonging in an introductory CS course**

*with Narges Norouzi, Carmen Robinson, and Anna Sher*

*Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education, June 2023*

<https://doi.org/10.1145/3587102.3588780>

### **F-Derangements and Decomposing Bipartite Graphs Into Paths**

*with Michael Plantholt and Ben Mussell*

*The Art of Discrete and Applied Mathematics, April 2024*

<https://doi.org/10.26493/2590-9770.1576.a47>

## Research in Progress

### **Impact of CARES Act Relief Funds on US Nursing Home COVID-19 Response**

*Utilizing data from the Department of Health and Human Services, the project analyzes how CARES Act COVID-19 relief funds affected the ability of US nursing homes to prevent and manage COVID-19 mortality and morbidity.*

### **Black-White Wealth and Income Inequalities in the United States**

*with Anirban Sanyal and Nirvikar Singh*

*Quantifies how differences in wealth and income levels of Black and White Americans relate to socioeconomic characteristics using data from the 2019 Survey of Consumer*

*Finances.*

**Effect of Health Insurance on Healthcare Utilization: Evidence from ACA Medicaid Expansions**

*Using 9 years of ACS and BRFSS in a two-way fixed effect model with staggered treatment timing to analyze the effect of insurance on healthcare utilization in the short and the long run.*

**Determinants and Prediction of Patients' Waiting Time in Emergency Departments**

*Implement Post-lasso to analyze a survey of doctors and patients over 9 years and find that Black people with public insurance wait 6 minutes more on average than White individuals with private insurance in ED before seeing a physician.*

<b>Programming Skills</b>	<i>R, SQL, Python, STATA, SPSS, Excel, LaTeX</i>	
<b>Prior Empirical Projects</b>	<b>K-mean and Euclidean Clustering of IRIS Using SOM Algorithm</b>	
	<b>Classification and Prediction of Breast Cancer Diagnosis in Wisconsin Using Machine Learning</b>	
	<b>Predicting Bank of America's Stock Price Movements Using Machine Learning</b>	
	<b>Debt and Growth: Is There A Magic Threshold For Advanced Economies?</b>	
<b>Teaching Fellow</b>	<i>The Role of Statistics in Economics (Causal Inference)</i> <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	<i>Summer 2022 - Present</i> <i>Santa Cruz, CA</i>
<b>International Journal Reviews</b>	<i>International Review of Economics and Finance</i> <i>International Review of Economics and Finance</i> <i>The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance</i> <i>The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance</i>	<i>January 2024</i> <i>November 2022</i> <i>July 2022</i> <i>March 2022</i>
<b>Research Judging</b>	<i>Judge for CSU Annual Research Competition in Economics</i> <i>Judge for CSU Annual Research Competition in Economics</i>	<i>April 2022</i> <i>April 2021</i>
<b>Graduate Researcher</b>	<i>Department of Economics</i> <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	<i>Sep 2023 - Dec 2023</i> <i>Santa Cruz, CA</i>
	<i>Department of Politics</i> <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	<i>March 2023 - July 2023</i> <i>Santa Cruz, CA</i>

	<i>Institutional Research, Assessment and Policy Studies</i> <i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	<i>Jan 2022 - July 2022</i> <i>Santa Cruz, CA</i>
<b>Awards</b>	<i>Award for Excellence in Teaching</i> <i>University of California, Santa Cruz, CA</i>	<i>May 2022</i>
	<i>Merit Based Doctorate Fellowship</i> <i>University of California, Santa Cruz, CA</i>	<i>Sep 2019 - Present</i>
	<i>Endowment for Graduate Student Excellence</i> <i>Illinois State University, Normal, IL</i>	<i>April 2018</i>
	<i>Graduate Assistant Fellowship</i> <i>Illinois State University, Normal, IL</i>	<i>Aug 2016 - Aug 2019</i>
<b>Internships</b>	<i>AIESEC Intern at Graz University</i> <i>Graz, Austria</i>	<i>Feb 2016 - Apr 2016</i>
	<i>AIESEC Intern at Yalova University</i> <i>Yalova, Turkey</i>	<i>Feb 2015 - Apr 2015</i>
<b>Teaching Experience</b>	<i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	<i>March 2020 - Present</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Is there Truth in Numbers? The role of statistics in economics (Causal Inference)</i></li> <li>• <i>Intermediate Microeconomics</i></li> <li>• <i>Security Markets and Financial Institutions</i></li> <li>• <i>Introductory Microeconomics: Resource Allocation and Market Structure</i></li> </ul>	
	<i>Illinois State University</i>	<i>Aug 2016 - May 2019</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Real Analysis</i></li> <li>• <i>Calculus III</i></li> <li>• <i>Abstract Algebra</i></li> <li>• <i>Microeconometrics</i></li> <li>• <i>Intermediate Microeconomics</i></li> </ul>	
	<i>University of Tehran</i>	<i>Sep 2014 - May 2016</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Calculus II</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Presentations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>UCSC Applied Microeconomics Workshop</i> <i>Santa Cruz, CA</i></li> <li>• <i>All Labor CA Conference</i> <i>Santa Barbara, CA</i></li> <li>• <i>Midwest Economic Association Annual Conference</i> <i>Chicago, IL</i></li> <li>• <i>Illinois State University Annual Symposium</i> <i>Normal, IL</i></li> </ul>	<i>2021,2022,2023,2024</i>  <i>2023</i>  <i>2018</i>  <i>2018</i>