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Research Interests

Primary: Health Economics and Policy, Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics
Secondary: Machine Learning, Financial Economics, Graph Theory

Teaching Interests

Microeconomics, Econometrics, Health Economics and Policy, Public Economics

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

Carlos Dobkin (Advisor)
Professor of Economics
cdobkin@ucsc.edu
(831) 459-2079

Laura Giuliano
Professor of Economics
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(831) 459-4248

George Bulman
Associate Professor of Economics
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Job Market Paper

Curbing Pharma Influence: The Effect of Marketing Restrictions on Physicians' Prescribing Behavior and Healthcare Expenditure

The impact of direct-to-physician marketing and its regulation on prescribing behavior, drug expenditures, and patient outcomes remains contested. The pharmaceutical industry argues that such marketing keeps doctors informed about new medicines, while critics express concerns about potential distortions in prescribing patterns, prompting calls for stricter regulation. Some states have begun adopting such regulations,

but little is known about their effects on prescribing behavior and healthcare expenditures. New Jersey implemented a policy in January 2018, imposing significant restrictions on direct-to-physician marketing, including limits on meal payments and caps on remuneration for consulting and speaking engagements. Using this policy as an exogenous source of variation and three federal administrative databases in a difference-in-difference event-study design, I estimate a 23% reduction in the dollar value of marketing received and a 4.4% decrease in the prescribing of marketed drugs by New Jersey prescribers compared to their peers in New York and Pennsylvania. I also estimate a 6% relative decline in overall drug expenditures, driven in part by a welfare-enhancing shift from branded to generic prescribing. The policy's impacts were most pronounced among prescribers who received the highest payments prior to implementation, particularly for promotional speaking, with no significant change observed among those receiving limited or no payments. The policy affected both new and established drugs, suggesting that doctor-pharma financial ties are not purely informational.

Publications

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

with Rongchen Liu, Gonzalo Martin Respighi Grasso, Anirban Sanyal, and Nirvikar Singh

Journal of Race, Economics and Policy, November 2024

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41996-024-00160-4>

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>

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>

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.

Teaching Fellow	<i>The Role of Statistics in Economics (Causal Inference) University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	<i>Summer 2022 - Present Santa Cruz, CA</i>
Programming Skills	<i>R, SQL, Python, STATA, SPSS, Excel, LaTeX</i>	
International Journal Reviews	<i>International Review of Economics and Finance International Review of Economics and Finance The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance</i>	<i>January 2024 November 2022 July 2022 March 2022</i>
Research Judging	<i>Judge for CSU Annual Research Competition in Economics Judge for CSU Annual Research Competition in Economics</i>	<i>April 2022 April 2021</i>
Graduate Researcher	<i>Department of Economics University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	<i>Sep 2023 - Dec 2023 Santa Cruz, CA</i>
	<i>Department of Politics University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	<i>March 2023 - July 2023 Santa Cruz, CA</i>
	<i>Institutional Research, Assessment and Policy Studies University of California, Santa Cruz</i>	<i>Jan 2022 - July 2022 Santa Cruz, CA</i>
Awards	<i>Award for Excellence in Teaching University of California, Santa Cruz, CA</i>	<i>May 2022</i>
	<i>Merit Based Doctorate Fellowship University of California, Santa Cruz, CA</i>	<i>Sep 2019 - Present</i>

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