

Benjamin Glasner

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EDUCATION

2019 – 2021

Ph.D. in Public Policy & Management

Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington
Committee:

- Professor Mark C. Long, marklong@uw.edu
- Professor Jacob L. Vigdor, jvigdor@uw.edu
- Assistant Professor Caroline Weber, caroline.weber@uky.edu

2016 – 2019

Master of Science, Public Policy and Management

Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington

2012–2016

B.A. Economics

Vassar College

Publications

The Minimum Wage, Self-Employment, and the Online Gig Economy by Benjamin Glasner

Journal of Labor Economics 2023 (vol. 41, no. 1)

This paper estimates the effect of minimum wage increases on work that is not covered by minimum wage laws. I find minimum wage increases in the early 2000s resulted in small reductions in engagement in traditional self-employment. Following the development of the online gig economy in the 2010s, a 10% increase in the minimum wage increased the number of nonemployer establishments classified as transportation and warehousing services by approximately 2.7%. The counties most likely to exhibit a positive relationship between the minimum wage and participation in uncovered work are those with low labor market concentration and active Uber marketplaces.

The Child Tax Credit Expansion and Mental Health: Effect of Moderate Cash Transfers on Life Satisfaction, Anxiety, and Depression by Benjamin Glasner, Oscar Jimenez-Solomon, Irwin Garfinkel, Christopher Wimer, and Sophie Collyer

Health Affairs. 2022, November.

The expansion of the Child Tax Credit in 2021 temporarily increased the size of payments and switched from an annual partially-refundable credit to a fully-refundable credit delivered monthly. Growing evidence from quasi-experimental studies in the US and experimental studies in low- and middle-income countries shows that moderate-to-large cash transfers improve subjective wellbeing and mental health. We estimate the effect of the Child Tax Credit expansion on subjective wellbeing and mental health among adult recipients. Using a nationally representative survey, the Understanding America Study (N = 7,198 and 2,743 unique respondents with children), we do not find evidence of a significant short-term impact of the Child Tax Credit expansion on measures of life satisfaction, anxiety, and depression symptomology. We speculate that null effects may be due to the temporary nature of the expansion.

NBER Papers

Effects of the Expanded Child Tax Credit on Employment Outcomes: Evidence from Real-World Data by Elizabeth Ananat, Benjamin Glasner, Christal Hamilton, Zachary Parolin

National Bureau of Economic Research. 2022. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w29823>
Early studies have established that the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC), which provides monthly cash payments to most families with children in the United States, has substantially reduced poverty and food hardship since its introduction in July 2021. Some researchers posit, however, that the CTC payments may generate negative employment effects that could offset its potential poverty-reduction effects. Scholars have simulated various employment scenarios using different assumed labor supply elasticities, but no study to date has empirically assessed how the CTC payments to date have affected employment outcomes using real-world data. To evaluate actual employment effects, we follow previously-established methodology used to estimate other actual CTC impacts, applying a series of difference-in-differences analyses using data from the monthly Current Population Survey files from April 2021 through August 2021 and the Census Household Pulse Survey microdata collected from April 14 through September 13, 2021. Across both samples and several model specifications, we find very small, inconsistently signed, and statistically insignificant impacts of the CTC both on employment in the prior week and on active participation in the labor force among adults living in households with children. Further, labor supply responses to the change in CTC do not differ for households previously earning within the phase-in range of the prior CTC, in striking contrast to the predictions of the simulation work. Thus, our analyses of real-world data do not support claims that the CTC has negative employment effects that offset its documented reductions in poverty and hardship.

Working Papers

Which Policies are Effective at Reducing Racial Differences in the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty? by Benjamin Glasner, Ronald B. Mincy, Zachary Parolin, and Christopher Wimer

Abstract: Black children are twice as likely as White children to live in poverty, and Black children who experience poverty during childhood are twice as likely to be poor in young adulthood relative to White children who experience childhood poverty. We explore the degree to which the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), reduce the intergenerational transmission of poverty. Further we test for racial differences in the effectiveness of each of these policies.

Medicaid Expansion's Effect on Self-Employment: Job Lock and Tax Evasion by Benjamin Glasner

Abstract: This paper tests whether the expansion of Medicaid following the Affordable Care Act impacted reported self-employment. Using administrative tax data, I find evidence of a negative effect of Medicaid expansion on nonemployer establishments. I estimate that states which expanded Medicaid see a reduction in the number of nonemployer establishments of 2.17%, and a reduction in total declared receipts of 1.43%. Using data from 2013, before Medicaid expanded, this was equivalent to a \$9.6-billion reduction in declared earnings by the self-employed and roughly 300,000 fewer declared nonemployer establishments among states which expanded Medicaid. Using data on Uber, an informational reporting platform, I find evidence that the reduction in declared self-employment is significantly manipulated in reference to the means-tested Medicaid expansion.

Measuring Seasonal Poverty by Paul Christian, Brian Dillon, and Benjamin Glasner

Abstract: Using large representative surveys collected at uniform intervals over time and across Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, and Peru, we demonstrate that poverty rates vary widely in different periods of the year. We use random forests to develop a feasible method of measuring seasonal influences on consumption which does not rely on a priori knowledge about ecologies or the functional form of an equation governing consumption. Our method of seasonality can be used to incorporate seasonality and timing of poverty into poverty measurement to assess welfare. Applications of these measures could be used in targeting applications to differentially target households who are chronically poor vs only expected to be poor in lean seasons or in impact evaluations of programs expected to reduce exposure to seasonality.

Multijobholding and the Minimum Wage by Benjamin Glasner

Abstract: This chapter tests whether the increase in state minimum wage policies from 2013 to 2016 impacted multiple jobholding and the balance of work hours between jobs. Using the Survey of Income and Program Participation, I find minor evidence of an effect of the minimum wage on the multiple jobholding status. A \$1 increase in the minimum wage is shown to increase the probability of transitioning into multiple jobholding over a 12 month period post treatment by 0.6%. I do not find evidence of a significant effect on hours worked or earnings across primary or secondary sources of income. In total, minimum wage policies appear to have little impact on multiple jobholding. These findings highlight that minimum wage policies are not an effective way to reduce the necessity of multiple jobholding among low-wage workers.

The Chinese Hukou System: Structural Change and Political Reform by Benjamin Glasner

Abstract: The Chinese household registration system, or hukou system, has been a staple of the Chinese economy since its introduction. Since the post-Mao period it has undergone significant reform, both directly and indirectly. At the same time, China has seen a remarkable period of growth, which included important structural change. A majority of this structural change occurred through the urbanization of China's large agricultural labor force. I examine the relationship between political reforms associated with the hukou system and structural change, demonstrating that it has a significant positive correlation.

Low-Wage Labor Identification by Benjamin Glasner and Jacob Vigdor

Abstract: With the expansion in availability of merged administrative data sets, finding ways of leveraging new data sources can prove enlightening. When considering policies and research targeted at low wage workers, one hurdle is the identification of who is low wage. Many data sources include quarterly and annual earnings for workers, but without information on hours worked, it is impossible to distinguish with certainty between workers with low hourly wage and a significant number of hours, and high hourly wage workers with few hours. Using Washington State unemployment insurance data, I test methods of identifying low wage workers in datasets where hours data is missing. I replicate the methods used by Jardim et al. (2018) in their paper "Minimum Wage Increases and Individual Employment Trajectories" using parametric and nonparametric machine learning methods to test the reliability of low wage cohort selection. I find that random forests are a more reliable method of predicting low wage status in administrative data than parametric logit models or industry subsets. This paper establishes two primary results: (1) machine learning methods may help bridge administrative datasets with similar characteristics but different focuses, expanding research opportunities, and (2) the use of industry cohorts as indicative of low wage status for minimum wage research may produce misleading estimates of the aggregate effect of policy changes.

WORK EXPERIENCE

September 2021 – Present

Postdoctoral Research Scientist,

Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University, New York

- Conduct analyses of the effects of major social policies and reforms thereto on the poverty rate and other key indicators of well-being
- These include long-term studies of the intergenerational transmission of poverty and impacts of contemporary policies and their effects
- Explore the relationship between the Child Tax Credit Expansion and multiple outcomes including mental health and employment
- Update Methodologies across the teams papers to reflect changes in the Difference-in-differences literature and two-way fixed effect models

September 2020 – March 2021

Dean's Research Assistant

University of Washington, Seattle

- Served as the primary resource for assisting faculty in the transition to Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL)
- Performed department level analysis on the status of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-racist course design and teaching performance
- Developed action plans for the future of the Evans School as a direct result of interviews and surveys among faculty, staff, students, alumni, and donors

March 2020 – June 2020 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Taught Quantitative Analysis II
- Via remote instruction, taught live and asynchronous lectures covering data analysis
- Responsible for grading work

January 2020 – March 2020 **Predoctoral Instructor**

University of Washington, Seattle

- The primary instructor for Economics for Policy Analysis and Management II

September 2019 – January 2020 **Graduate Research Assistant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Worked under Jacob Vigdor
- Working on the Seattle Minimum Wage Project
- Using Machine learning and traditional prediction techniques I assessed the validity of industry based minimum wage studies in comparison to administrative hours data from UI records
- This work will be presented at LERA's 72nd Annual Meeting, June 13-16, 2020, Portland, OR

June 2018 – September 2018 **World Bank Group Short Term Consultant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Perform expenditure analysis on household surveys in Malawi, Tanzania, Ghana, Peru, and Cote d'Ivoire.
- Use machine learning techniques to create estimates of parametric, semi-parametric, and non-parametric models of seasonality
- Develop a working paper using these results

September 2017 – June 2018 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Taught Economics for Policy Analysis and Management I and II as well as Introduction to Public Policy
- Teach two sessions per week as well as office hours twice a week
- Responsible for grading work

January 2017 – September 2017 **Graduate Research Assistant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Worked under Brian Dillon
- Supporting previously started working papers on behavioral and development economics
- Began a project on the prediction of seasonal consumption paths in relation to poverty measures, currently titled "Measuring Seasonal Poverty"

September 2016 – January 2017, June 2019 - January 2020 **Graduate Research Assistant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Worked under Rachel Fyall
- Conducted research in support of both curriculum needs and active projects
- Built project proposals/outlines and worked on Coauthoring projects

September 2015 – May 2016 **Economic Department Intern**

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie

- Introductory Microeconomics and Macroeconomics
- Worked as a grader and academic support system if needed in class
- Hosted office hours twice a week

Summer of 2015

Ford Scholar

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie

- Conduct research on economic structural change globally
- Concluded this work with a comprehensive dataset and descriptions of 40 countries economic sectors growth by productivity between 1970 and 2010

Awards

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| <i>2020 Pi Alpha Alpha Doctoral Manuscript Award</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognizes an outstanding student paper. Nominated papers are judged on the basis of relevance of the topic, appropriate use of methodology, quality of presentation, originality, innovativeness, clarity, and academic quality. |
| <i>2020 NASPAA Staats Emerging Scholar</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognizes up to three PhD candidates who are job seeking for an academic position in the coming academic year. Candidates are selected to present a paper at the annual conference in front of national and international public service education leaders who make hiring decisions. |
| <i>The Agnes Reynolds Jackson Prize</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established December 1986 by Robert F. Jackson in memory of his wife, Agnes Reynolds. In past years this award has gone to the senior whose paper is judged to be the best senior seminar paper. |

Dissertation Committee

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| <i>Dean of the School of Public Policy Mark Long</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://evans.uw.edu/profile/mark-long/• marklong@uw.edu• (206) 543-3787 |
| <i>Professor Jake Vigdor</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://evans.uw.edu/profile/jacob-vigdor/• jvigdor@uw.edu• (206) 616-4436 |
| <i>Assistant Professor Caroline Weber</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://martin.uky.edu/caroline-weber• caroline.weber@uky.edu• (859) 562-3179 |

Community Outreach

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| <i>Public Policy</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Served as an advisor to the Seattle Mayor's Office on local legislation governing and supporting nonstandard work arrangements and the online gig economy• Consulted with an advisory team member for Senator Mark Warner regarding the effect of Covid-19 on local labor markets, independent contracting, and unemployment insurance |
| <i>New tools</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supported the development of new administrative data tools with the Washington State Employment Security Department, including work with the Seattle Minimum Wage project• Developed and delivered a random forest methodology to support the analysis of incomplete survey data across developing economies for the World Bank |
| <i>Journalism</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Served as a consult for journalistic pieces written on the effects of the minimum wage• Participated in the Political Economy Forum's podcast |