

SIERRA ARNOLD

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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh Ph.D. Candidate, Economics	2017-present Expected 2023
University of Pittsburgh M.A., Economics	2018
Temple University B.A., Mathematical Economics Minor, History	2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban Economics, Health Economics, Economics of Inequality

WORKING PAPERS

“Public Transportation Access and Food Insecurity”

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Police Violence under Community Policing Reform” with Jessica LaVoice
“Reproductive Choices when Faced with Clinic Protesters”

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND HONORS

Graduate Dissertation Fellowship, Federal Reserve Board of Governors	2021
Graduate Student Teaching Award, University of Pittsburgh	2021
Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh	2020-2021
Arts & Sciences Summer Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh	2019
Slesinger Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh	2017-2018
President’s Scholarship, Temple University	2013-2017
University Honors, Temple University	2013-2017
Summer Research Scholarships, Temple University	2014-2016

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Urban Economics Association North American Meeting	2022
American Society of Health Economists Annual Meeting	2022
Canadian Economics Association Annual Meeting	2022
Graduate Student Expo, University of Pittsburgh	2022
Labor and Development Economics Brownbag Seminar, University of Pittsburgh	2018, 2019, 2022
Research and Statistics Brownbag Seminar, Federal Reserve Board of Governors	2021
Applied Microeconomics Brownbag Seminar, University of Pittsburgh	2021
Challenges for the 2030 Development Agenda Poster Session, University of Pittsburgh	2019

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Dissertation Fellow, Federal Reserve Board of Governors Microeconomic Surveys, Research and Statistics	2021
Mayor’s Intern, City of Philadelphia Office of Economic Opportunity	2016
Research Intern, Temple University Prof. Kevin Fandl, Department of Legal Studies	2015
Research Intern, Temple University Prof. Dimitrios Diamantaras, Department of Economics	2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, University of Pittsburgh Capstone in Economic Inequality Average Evaluation Score/5: 4.42	Summer 2021
Instructor of Record, University of Pittsburgh Introduction to Macroeconomics Average Evaluation Score/5: 4.28	Summer 2020
Grader, University of Pittsburgh Intermediate Microeconomics, Profs. Daniel Berkowitz and Randall Walsh Intermediate Microeconomics, Prof. Daniel Berkowitz	Spring 2020 Fall 2021
Teaching Assistant, University of Pittsburgh Introduction to Microeconomics, Profs. Carey Treado and Svitlana Maksymenko Macroeconomics, Prof. David Hewitt Introduction to Microeconomics, Prof. Margarita Zabelina	Fall 2019 Introduction to Spring 2019 Fall 2018
Academic Tutor, Temple University Economics, Mathematics, Writing	2014-2017

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS

Representative, Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Organization	2020-2021
Member, Pitt Women in Economics Organization	2018-present
Graduate Student Mentor, Department of Economics	2018-2020
Memberships: American Economic Association, Canadian Economics Association, American Society of Health Economists	

TECHNICAL SKILLS

arcGIS, L^AT_EX, Office, R, Stata, Tableau
Some experience in: Python, SQL

OTHER

Member, University of Pittsburgh Orchestra	2018-2020
Volunteer, Pittsburgh Community Food Bank	2020-2021
Volunteer, Pittsburgh Mutual Aid Network	2020-2021

PAPER ABSTRACTS

Public Transportation Access and Food Insecurity(job market paper)

Public transportation networks connect poor urban households in food deserts to grocery options and nutritious food. This paper examines how the exit of public transit options in an urban food desert affects a household's access to and utilization of grocery stores over drug and convenience stores, as well as the healthfulness of the foods these households purchase. I contribute an original data set of all transportation network changes across 138 cities in the U.S. over the period 2008-2019. This is combined with UPC codes of all consumer packaged goods bought by tens of thousands of urban households over the same period. I analyze impacts of the exit of public transportation options in a household's zip code on the household's shopping habits and the healthfulness of their purchases. The exit of public transportation options in an urban food desert is associated with a significant decrease in the number of yearly trips households make to grocery stores and an increase in the number of yearly trips made to drug and dollar stores. Further, households that experience such an exit subsequently buy fewer healthy foods and more unhealthy foods. The results from this research suggest that maintaining public transit infrastructure is an important public policy concern and that cuts to public transit networks directly impact urban households' access to nutritious food.

Police Violence Under Community Policing Reform with Jessica LaVoice

Over the past five years, there has been increased focus on police conduct due to various incidents of police brutality and the use of lethal force. The tension between police officers and the community poses new challenges, especially with regard to policing in minority communities. We study how various policing strategies effect both crime rates and measures of police violence. One such strategy, referred to as community policing, promotes organizational strategies that support the use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques. A community policing approach allows police and citizens to frequently interact with each other for reasons other than criminal investigation, including to provide information and assistance to people in need, offer youth education, and coordinate community outreach efforts. This strategy seeks to address the causes of crime and to reduce fear of social disorder through problem-solving strategies and police-community partnerships. We examine the effect of community policing on crime by measuring the impact of receiving a community policing grant from the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services department on crime rates from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports. We also establish a framework to analyze the impact of community policing on police violence. Preliminary evidence shows that receiving a community policing grant reduces crime rates over the following three years.

Reproductive Choices when faced with Clinic Protesters

Planned Parenthood (PP) is the largest single provider of health services in the U.S. a nonprofit organization that provides reproductive healthcare in the U.S. and consists of 159 medical and non-medical affiliates, which operate over 600 clinics in the U.S. Planned Parenthood's reputation for providing abortions has lead to frequent protests outside of these clinics. Protesters engage in a variety of activities, in some instances harassing the individuals who use Planned Parenthood's services. In this paper, I study whether protests outside of PP offices effectively deter patients from receiving abortions and whether they otherwise change the no-show rate of patients or the type of care they receive. I use data from two PP affiliates, which include data from hundreds of thousands of medical visits spanning 2010 to present. This will be paired with data from the National Abortion Federation, which contains statistics on violence and disruption against abortion providers, including incidents of picketing and obstruction.

REFERENCES

Osea Giuntella (Chair)
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