

Jonathan P. Cohen

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EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D. in Economics

Labor, Public Finance, and Econometrics | Advised by David Autor, Amy Finkelstein, and Simon Jäger

Expected February 2023

GPA: 4.9/5

Northwestern University, B.A. in Economics and Mathematics

Summa Cum Laude | Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences Honors | Kellogg Certificate in Financial Economics

June 2015

GPA: 3.96/4

SELECTED DISSERTATION RESEARCH

No-Fault Job Loss? Less Moral Hazard (with Geoffrey Schnorr), Job Market Paper

- Methods: Causal inference (leniency-based IV, multi-cutoff fuzzy RDD), structural (calibrated job search model)
- Findings: A previously unstudied margin of unemployment insurance benefit generosity is more efficient than other margins

Skill Depreciation During Unemployment (with Andrew Johnston and Attila Lindner)

- Methods: Causal inference (diff-in-diff), machine learning (random forest, LASSO)
- Findings: General skills are stable throughout unemployment and do not explain drops in well-being or re-employment wages

Federal Government Pay Policies (with Martina Uccioli)

- Methods: Causal inference (diff-in-diff), data collection (web-scraping, OCR)
- Findings: The United States federal government's targeted retention policies have small effects on employee quits

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant – Professors Autor, Finkelstein, Ganong, Jäger, Levy, and Salz

September 2019 – Present

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

- Served as head TA twice, coordinating logistics with up to 4 other graduate TAs (avg. evaluation of 6.35/7 across 7 courses)
- Developed and led recitations, including 10 graduate public finance sessions on the latest theoretical and empirical methods
- Mentored undergraduates in idea generation, causal inference, and writing clarity for semester-long independent research

Research Assistant – Professors Jäger and Poterba

January 2018 – June 2019

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

- Adapted theoretical firm investment models to rationalize increased capital and unaffected profits under worker codetermination
- Documented key patterns in a new administrative employment dataset linking temporary workers to contract firms
- Set project timelines and task prioritization for a Master's degree research assistant
- Projects published in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* and *Review of Economics and Statistics*

Research Assistant – Professors Beshears, Choi, Laibson, and Madrian

June 2015 – June 2017

National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, MA

- Found retirement savings increases following automatic enrollment are not offset by increased borrowing
- Developed new and maintained existing linked payroll, 401(k) plan, and credit record databases containing millions of employees
- Projects published in the *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Public Economics*, and *AIDS*

Summer Research Analyst – Capital Markets

June 2014 – August 2014

Federal Reserve Bank of New York, New York, NY

- Used optimal control theory to assist a staff economist in developing a model of central bank policy under a liquidity trap

Summer Analyst – Operational Risk Management and Analysis

June 2013 – August 2013

Goldman Sachs, New York, NY

- Identified potential fraud using a Benford distribution analysis
- Evaluated value-at-risk modeling assumptions for the bank's Comprehensive Capital Analysis and Review

PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Journal Referee AER: Insights (x4, 2021 Excellence in Refereeing Award), Journal of Public Economics

External Volunteering Cambridge Public Schools weekly math tutor ('21-present), ACLU Data Analyst ('18), City of Boston Volunteer Income Tax Assistance ('16-'17), YMCA Project SOAR weekly mentor for a middle school student ('13-'15)

MIT Application Assistance and Mentoring Program matchmaker and mentor ('21-present), Undergraduate outreach organizer ('18-present), Club Cycling racing officer ('21-present), Outing Club hiking co-leader ('20-present)

HONORS AND AWARDS

NBER Retirement and Disability Research Center Fellow (3 US economics Ph.D. candidates annually), Bradley Foundation Fellow (1 MIT economics Ph.D. candidate annually), MIT Presidential Fellow (~10% of MIT entering graduate students annually), Phi Beta Kappa, Kabiller Prize (1 Kellogg undergraduate annually), College Fed Challenge National Championship Team

SKILLS AND PERSONAL

- *Programming languages:* Fluent in Stata; experience in Python, R, Julia, and SQL
- *Hobbies:* Distance running, road cycling, backcountry camping, Nordic skiing, homemade fermentation, reading short stories