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**DOCTORAL STUDIES**     Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  
PhD, Economics, Expected completion June 2024  
DISSERTATION: "Essays in Labor Economics"

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES**

Professor David Autor  
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**PRIOR EDUCATION**     University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
Bachelor of Arts, Economics and Mathematics  
*Summa Cum Laude*

2017

**CITIZENSHIP**     USA

**GENDER:**     Male

**FIELDS**     Primary Fields: Labor Economics

Secondary Fields: Economics of Race, Applied Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics

# MIT Economics

BRANDON ENRIQUEZ

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<b>TEACHING EXPERIENCE</b>	Graduate Labor Economics – 14.661	Fall 2022
	TA to Prof. Josh Angrist and Daron Acemoglu	
	Undergraduate Econometrics – 14.32	Fall 2020
	TA to Prof. Anna Mikusheva	
	Undergraduate Seminar on World Poverty – 14.73	Fall 2020
	TA to Prof. Esther Duflo, Frank Schilbach, David Atkin	
<b>RELEVANT POSITIONS</b>	Staff Economist, White House Council of Economic Advisers	2021-22
	Research Assistant to Prof. David Autor	2017-20
	Research Assistant to Prof. David Autor and Joshua Angrist	2016-17
	Research Assistant to Prof. Parag Pathak	2016-17
<b>FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS</b>	Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship	2023
	Russell Sage Foundation Dissertation Research Grant	2023
	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program	2017
<b>PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>	Referee: Journal of Public Economics	
	Conference Presentations:	
	MIT Public Finance/Labor Workshop (2023)	
	Annual Meeting of the International Institute of Public Finance (2023)	
	Basic Income Guarantee Conference (2023)	
	ADP State of the Labor Market Summit (2020)	
	PhD Excellence Initiative Workshop (2019, 2022)	
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>“Wage Garnishment in the United States: New Evidence from Administrative Payroll Records”</b> (with Anthony DeFusco and Maggie Yellen (2023)) <i>Forthcoming, American Economic Review: Insights</i>	
	Wage garnishment allows creditors to deduct money directly from workers’ paychecks to re-pay defaulted debts. We document new facts about wage garnishment between 2014–2019 using data from a large payroll processor who distributes paychecks to approximately 20% of U.S. private-sector workers. As of 2019, over one in every 100 workers was being garnished for delinquent debt. The average garnished worker experiences garnishment for five months, during which approximately 11% of gross earnings is remitted to their creditor(s). The beginning of a new garnishment is associated with an increase in job turnover rates but no intensive margin change in hours worked. <i>NBER Working Paper No. 30724</i>	

## **“The Short-Term Labor Response to the Expanded Child Tax Credit”**

(with Damon Jones and Ernie Tedeschi (2023)) *AEA: Papers and Proceedings* (113): 401-405.

We estimate the extensive and intensive margin labor supply response to the monthly Child Tax Credit disbursed in 2021 as a part of the American Rescue Plan Act. Using Current Population Survey microdata, we compare labor supply outcomes among households who qualify for varying relative increases in household income, as a result of their income level and household size. We do not find strong evidence of a change in labor supply for families receiving the credit. The results are robust to alternative labor supply models, where households respond mainly to cash on hand or changes in the annual budget set.

*NBER Working Paper No. 31110*

### **RESEARCH PAPERS**

## **“Racially Disparate Effects of the Japan Trade Shock” (Job Market Paper)**

(with Fidan Ana Kurtulus)

We evaluate the effects of the Japan trade shock on manufacturing employment and whether they were racially disparate. Most importantly, we test whether differential occupational exposure drove racially disparate effects. Using detailed establishment-level data and a shift-share instrumental variables design, we find that the shock caused substantial decreases in overall manufacturing employment and in Black manufacturing operator employment. We find that two-thirds of the decrease in Black operator employment (relative to that of white operators) was due to disparate occupational exposure. Disparate exposure is associated with local anti-Black prejudice. The Japan shock decreased Black income in affected areas, and had persistent effects on Black poverty and joblessness. Taken together, these results show that aggregate sector-level trade shocks can hit minority workers particularly hard when they are concentrated in exposed occupations.

### **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

## **“Employment Effects of the Pandemic Unemployment Insurance Expansion” (with David Autor and Nela Richardson)**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government expanded unemployment benefits through the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program, which provided an additional \$600 in weekly benefits for unemployed workers. Using matched employer-employee data covering 1/5 of the US private-sector workforce, we study the impact of the FPUC program on businesses. While we find little overall effect of FPUC on firm payrolls, we find a pronounced effect on small businesses. The FPUC led to a large increase in small business reopening and a significant decrease in small business closures. Small business employment increased, driven by increased re-hires and decreased separations. We find no effect of the expansion on

wages. The results are consistent with a framework where small businesses face more uncertainty in filling vacancies than large businesses – uncertainty that is magnified when worker flows into employment are lower.  
*(slides coming soon)*

## **“The Role of Unions in Mediating Disparate Exposure to Japanese Trade”**

Unions had a complicated relationship with their Black workers throughout the twentieth century. At times, unions were a force for Black economic advancement; at other times, unions promoted racial hierarchies within workplaces. The Japan trade shock of the 1960s-1980s had large racially disparate impacts on employment and income, and these effects were driven by disparate occupational exposure. To what extent were these effects exacerbated or mitigated by unions? This project merges together data on unionization elections and contracts with establishment-level data on employment, to explore the role of unions in shaping the effects of the Japan shock on Black employment and income.

## **“Firm Hiring and Incentives to Hire Applicants with Criminal Convictions”**

In the United States, a single felony conviction can permanently restrict access to employment. While much research has studied the mixed record of so-called ban-the-box policies on improving labor market prospects of prior offenders, this project focuses on a potentially important, largely understudied policy tool that seeks to catalyze hiring of job applicants who are newly released from incarceration: the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit (“WOTC”), which provides firms \$2400 for hiring an applicant with a felony conviction within one year of their conviction or release from prison. Using matched employer-employee data covering 1/12 of the US private-sector workforce, I leverage administrative features in the utilization of the data providers’ tools assisting firms to generate a near-experimental comparison, to measure the effects of WOTC on hiring of returning citizens.

## **“Effects of Temporary Wage Subsidies During Economic Downturns”**

In contrast to the wide literature on the effects of permanent business wage subsidies on employment and wages, which generally finds small effects, less research has examined the effects on temporary wage subsidies on labor markets. In response to the economic devastation wrought by the pandemic, the federal government created the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) to aid businesses adversely affected by pandemic and pandemic stay-at-home orders. The ERTC provides businesses a maximum total amount \$26,000 per worker over the 2020-2021 period, depending on the firm size which fiscal quarters the worker was furloughed vs employed. Using matched employer-employee data covering 1/12 of the US private-sector workforce, I study the effects of the ERTC on employment, payroll, and small business reopening.

**“Intersectional Effects of Affirmative Action Policies: Evidence from EEO-1 Records”** (with Fidan Kurtulus and Laura Weiwu)

**“The Role of Japan Shock in Stalling Black Progress”**