

LESTER R. LUSHER

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CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Assistant Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Economics and Public Policy Center, 2017-

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Economics, Economics of Education, Behavioral Economics, Labor Economics

EDUCATION

University of California, Davis

Ph.D. Economics, June 2017

M.A. Economics, June 2012

B.A. Economics, B.A. Statistics, Minor in Psychology, June 2011

RESEARCH

Publications

-Lusher, L., Yasenov, V., Gender Performance Gaps: Quasi-experimental Evidence on the Role of Gender Differences in Sleep Cycles. *Economic Inquiry*, forthcoming.

-Media: *The Washington Post*, *The Independent*, *Education Week*, *The National Post*, *IZA Newsroom*

-Lusher, L., Yasenov, V., Double-shift Schooling and Student Success: Quasi-experimental Evidence from Europe. *Economics Letters*, 2016

Working Papers

“TAs Like Me: Racial Interactions between Graduate Teaching Assistants and Undergraduates”

(with Douglas Campbell & Scott Carrell) *NBER working paper 21568*, September 2015

-Revise & resubmit: *Journal of Public Economics*

-Media: *Slate*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Washington Examiner*, *The National Review*, *The Daily Illini*

“The Impact of Real Exchange Rate Shocks on Manufacturing Workers: An Autopsy from the MORG”

(with Douglas Campbell) -Revise & resubmit: *Journal of International Money and Finance*

“Are Professional Basketball Players Reference-Dependent?” (with Chuan He & Stephen Fick)

“College Better: Parimutuel Betting Markets as a Commitment Device and Monetary Incentive”

“Sleep and Student Success: Sleep Regularity vs. Sleep Duration” (with Phuc Luong & Vasco Yasenov)

Research In Progress

“The Effects of Summer School Remediation: Evidence from the California State Universities”

(with Matthew Case & Michal Kurlaender)

“Immigration and Product Diversity: Evidence from Scanner Data” (with Giovanni Peri & Vasco Yasenov)

“Marijuana Laws and the Consumption of Other Goods” (with Vasco Yasenov & Ulf Zölitz)

“Loss and Risk Preferences and Exam Performance” (with Paco Martorell)

“Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Information on Major Choice: A University-wide Field Experiment”

(with Derek Rury)

“Commitment to Focus in the Classroom: Field Experiments with Pocket Points™” (with Billur Aksoy)

“Matching Markets in Education: Field Experiments with Penji™, the ‘Uber’ of Peer-to-Peer Teaching”

“Unemployment Insurance and Worker Productivity: Evidence from Scanner Data”

(with Geoffrey Schnorr & Rebecca Taylor)

EXTERNAL HONORS & AWARDS

2017-2019 J-PAL North America Full Research Project Grant ~\$94,210
2016-2017 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant ~\$10,041
2015 Russell Sage Foundation Small Grants in Behavioral Economics ~\$5,370
2015 IEP Workshop - Best Student/Early Career Presentation Award
2014 University of Chicago & Templeton - Science of Philanthropy Initiative PhD Grant Award ~\$4,200
2014 EBSA "Into the Bullpen" Business Idea Competition: First place for CollegeBetter.com

HONORS & AWARDS - UC DAVIS

2016 Office of Research Innovator of the Year Finalist
2016 Institute for Social Sciences Dissertation Improvement Grant ~\$1,000
2015 Institute for Social Sciences Dissertation Improvement Grant ~\$800
2015 Graduate Student Association Fall Travel Award ~\$500
2015 Institute for Social Sciences Summer Research Support Award ~\$450
2015 Interdisciplinary Graduate & Professional Student Symposium Grad Slam Finalist
2014 IGA and Department of Economics Travel & Research Award ~\$350
2014 Graduate Student Association Spring Travel Award ~\$367.05
2013 Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award

PRESENTATIONS (including upcoming)

2018: UC Irvine
2017: AEFP 42nd Annual Conference, Sacramento State University, Clemson University, George Washington University, San Jose State University, Middlebury College, West Point Military Academy, New York University Abu Dhabi, Hamilton College, University of Hawaii at Manoa
2016: APPAM Fall Research Conference, University of Chicago - Advances with Field Experiments Conference, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara Labor Lunch, All California Labor Economics Conference (Poster), UC Davis Applied Microeconomics Brownbag (x2), Claremont McKenna - Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics (SoCCAM), AEFP 41st Annual Conference
2015: University of Leicester - Economics PhD Conference, University of Chicago - 2015 SPI Annual Conference (Poster), UC Davis Interdisciplinary Graduate & Professional Student Symposium, UC Davis Applied Microeconomics Brownbag (x3)
2014: University of Chicago - 2014 SPI Annual Conference (Poster), UC Davis Microeconomic Theory Brownbag

WORKSHOPS

University of Sydney, Workshop on Behavioural Economics: Foundations and Applied Research
2016 WEAI Graduate Student Dissertation Workshop, Portland
University of Calgary 3rd Annual Microeconomics Workshop, Banff, Alberta
2016 Bay Area Behavioral and Experimental Economics Workshop (BABEEW), UC Berkeley
IFREE's 21st Visiting Graduate Student Workshop in Experimental Economics, Chapman University
2014 MERIT Workshop on Experiments with Governments, University of Chicago

REFeree EXPERIENCE

Journal of Human Resources (x3)
B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics
International Review of Economics Education
Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics

REFERENCES

Professor Scott Carrell
University of California, Davis
secarrell@ucdavis.edu

Professor David Rapson
University of California, Davis
dsrapson@ucdavis.edu

TEACHING - UC DAVIS

Instructor

Economics of Education	Summer Session II 2016	Evaluation score: NA
Game Theory	Summer Session II 2015	Evaluation score: 4.9
(Graduate) Teaching of Economics	Fall 2014	Evaluation score: 4.8

Teaching Assistant

(Graduate) Game Theory	Spring 2013, Spring 2014	Avg. evaluation score: 4.9
Introductory Econometrics	Summer Session I 2014	Evaluation score: 4.8
Labor Economics	Winter 2014	Evaluation score: 4.9
Game Theory	Fall 2013	Evaluation score: 4.8
Introductory Macroeconomics	F'11, W'12, S'12, SSI'12, SSI'13	Avg. evaluation score: 4.9
Energy Economics	Winter 2013	Evaluation score: 4.9
International Macroeconomics	Fall 2012	Evaluation score: 4.8

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER

Professor Michal Kurlaender, June 2014 - July 2017
Professor Robert C. Feenstra, June 2014 - December 2014
Professors Dave Rapson & Katrina Jessoe, Summer 2012

OTHER POSITIONS & ACTIVITIES

UC Davis Undergraduate Research Center, Graduate Mentor (Fall 2013 - Spring 2016)
UC Davis Economics Department, Graduate Mentor (Fall 2012 - Spring 2016)
UC Davis Economics Department, Graduate Student Representative (Fall 2012 - Spring 2014)

SELECTED MEDIA

- “The Home Team Advantage: Why students who are the same race as their TAs get better grades”
9/22/2015, *Slate*
- “Study: College students learn better with same-race TAs”, 9/22/2015, *Washington Examiner*
- “Study finds that students earn better grades from teaching assistants of same race or ethnicity”
9/21/2015, *Inside Higher Ed*
- “TAs Like Me”, 9/21/2015, *The National Review*
- “Research suggests race similarities may lead to better performance”, 9/29/2015, *The Daily Illini*
- “The powerful thing that happens when the school day starts in the afternoon”
8/5/2016, *The Washington Post*
- “A late start to the day could be key to improving boys’ lagging classroom performance, study suggests”
8/5/2016, *The National Post*
- “Girls do better than boys at school because they’re morning people, study suggests”
8/9/2016, *The Independent*
- “Would later school start times help close the gender performance gap?”, 8/11/2016, *Education Week*
- “Different sleep cycles can explain part of the gender performance gap in education”
9/7/2016, *IZA Newsroom*
- “Drivers of inequality: Trade shocks verses top marginal tax rates”, 9/8/2016, *VoxEU*

Updated: September 6, 2017