

## LESTER R. LUSHER

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### CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Economics and Public Policy Center, 2017+  
Research Affiliate, California Education Lab, 2017+  
Research Affiliate, IZA, 2019+

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

### EDUCATION - UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Ph.D. Economics, 2017; M.A. Economics, 2012; B.A. Economics, B.A. Statistics, Psychology Minor, 2011

### RESEARCH

#### Working Papers

- “Is Peer Review Biased Toward Statistical Significance?” (*with Abel Brodeur, Scott Carrell, & David Figlio*)
- “The Effects of Exam Frames on Student Effort and Performance” (*with Paco Martorell & Briana Ballis*)
- “Major Disappointment: A Large-scale Experiment on (Non-)Pecuniary Information and Major Choice” (*with Scott Carrell & Derek Rury*)
- “Peer Review Exhibits the Gambler’s Fallacy” (*with Scott Carrell & David Figlio*)
- “Clubs and Networks in Economics Reviewing” (*with Scott Carrell & David Figlio*)  
- *R&R: Journal of Political Economy*
- “Unemployment Insurance as a Worker Indiscipline Device? Evidence from Scanner Data” (*with Geoffrey Schnorr & Rebecca Taylor*) -Media: [IZA Commentary](#)  
- Conditional Acceptance: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*

#### Publications

- Kurlaender, M., Lusher, L., Case, M., Is Early Start a Better Start? Evaluating California State University’s Early Start Remediation Efforts. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2020
- Lusher, L., Yasenov, V., Luong, P., Does Schedule Irregularity Affect Productivity? Evidence from Random Assignment into College Classes. *Labour Economics*, 2019
- Campbell, D., Lusher, L., The Impact of Real Exchange Rate Shocks on Manufacturing Workers: An Autopsy from the MORG. *Journal of International Money and Finance*, 2019
- Lusher, L., Campbell, D., Carrell, S., TAs Like Me: Racial Interactions between Graduate Teaching Assistants and Undergraduates. *Journal of Public Economics*, 2018 (NBER working paper 21568)  
-Media: *Slate*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Washington Examiner*, *The National Review*, *The Daily Illini*
- Lusher, L., He, C., Fick, S., Are Professional Basketball Players Reference-Dependent? *Applied Economics*, 2018
- Lusher, L., Yasenov, V., Gender Performance Gaps: Quasi-experimental Evidence on the Role of Gender Differences in Sleep Cycles. *Economic Inquiry*, 2018  
-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

## Research In Progress

“Pocket Aces: Commitment and Incentives Against Smartphones for Students” (*Billur Aksoy & Scott Carrell*)

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

“The Impact of Unemployment Insurance on Job Search, Posted Wages, and Downskilling” (*with Geoffrey Schnorr & Vasco Yassenov*)

“The Impacts of Fog, Temperature, and Air Conditioners on Student Achievement” (*with Timothy Halliday, Rachel Inafuku, & John Lynham*)

## EXTERNAL HONORS & AWARDS

2019-2022 J-PAL North America Education Technology and Opportunity Full Research Project ~\$149,396

2017-2020 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

## INTERNAL HONORS & AWARDS - UH MANOA & UC DAVIS

2018-2019 College of Social Sciences Research Travel Award ~\$1,533

2018-2019 College of Social Sciences Research Support Award ~\$11,501

2017-2018 Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research Travel Award ~\$2,000

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

**2021:** University of Hawaii at Manoa Shidler College of Business

**2020:** Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Hawaii Economic Association Luncheon, EALE SOLE AASLE World Conference

**2019:** University of Hawaii at Manoa, UC Davis Alumni Conference, WEAI 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference, 4<sup>th</sup> IZA Junior/Senior Symposium (UT Austin), Texas A&M University

**2018:** UC Irvine, WEAI 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference

**2017:** AEF 42<sup>nd</sup> 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), AEF 41<sup>st</sup> 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 Theory Brownbag

## WORKSHOPS

2019 International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education  
2018 WEAI International Conference Early Career Workshop  
2017 University of Sydney, Workshop on Behavioural Economics: Foundations and Applied Research  
2016 WEAI Graduate Student Dissertation Workshop, Portland  
University of Calgary 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Microeconomics Workshop, Banff, Alberta  
2016 Bay Area Behavioral and Experimental Economics Workshop (BABEEW), UC Berkeley  
IFREE's 21<sup>st</sup> Visiting Graduate Student Workshop in Experimental Economics, Chapman University  
2014 MERIT Workshop on Experiments with Governments, University of Chicago

## REFeree EXPERIENCE

*Economics of Education Review* (x2), *Journal of Human Resources* (x8), *Education Economics, Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of the European Economic Association* (x4), *B.E. Journal of Theoretical Economics*, *International Review of Economics Education*, *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, *Economics of Transition*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*

## TEACHING

**Instructor (UH Manoa):** Introductory Microeconomics, Advanced Econometrics, Graduate Public Economics

**Instructor (UC Davis):** Economics of Education, Game Theory, (Graduate) Teaching of Economics

**Teaching Assistant (UC Davis):** Graduate Game Theory (x2), Introductory Econometrics, Labor Economics, Game Theory, Introductory Macroeconomics (x5), Energy Economics, International Macroeconomics

## OTHER POSITIONS & ACTIVITIES

Hawaii Economic Association Board of Directors (January 2019-December 2020)  
UH Manoa Economics Department Graduate Committee (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)  
UH Manoa Economics Department Seminar Co-Organizer (Fall 2017-)  
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*

"Teaching assistants like me? Here's what could change", 11/9/2015, *The Conversation*

"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*

“Your Brian on Taxes”, 4/18/2018, *Hawai’i Public Radio*

“Can Money Motivate Students? Hawai’i Econ Professor Hopes to Find Out”  
1/10/2019, *Hawai’i Public Radio*

Updated: February 9, 2021