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PLACEMENT DIRECTORS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, expected May 2020
M.A. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, 2014-2016
B.A. Economics, Centre College, 2008-2012

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Public Economics
Secondary: Political Economy, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

DISSERTATION

Essays on Government Responses to Crime and Racial Inequality
Committee: Prof. Melissa Kearney (Chair), Prof. John Haltiwanger, Prof. Judy Hellerstein, Prof. Ethan Kaplan

JOB MARKET PAPER

Racial Disparities in Federal Sentencing: Evidence from Drug Mandatory Minimums, 2019

I test for racial disparities in the criminal justice system by analyzing abnormal bunching in the distribution of crack-cocaine amounts used in federal sentencing. I compare cases sentenced before and after the Fair Sentencing Act, a 2010 law that changed the 10-year mandatory minimum threshold for crack-cocaine from 50g to 280g. First, I find that after 2010, there is a sharp increase in the fraction of cases sentenced at 280g (the point that now triggers a 10-year mandatory minimum), and that this increase is disproportionately large for black and Hispanic offenders. I then explore several possible explanations for the observed racial disparities, including discrimination. I analyze data from multiple stages in the criminal justice system and find that the increased bunching for minority offenders is driven by prosecutorial discretion, specifically as used by about 20-30% of prosecutors. Moreover, the fraction of cases at 280g falls in 2013 when evidentiary standards become stricter. Finally, the racial disparity in the increase cannot be explained by differences in education, sex, age, criminal history, seized drug amount, or other elements of the crime, but it can be almost entirely explained by a measure of state-level racial animus. These results shed light on the role of prosecutorial discretion and potentially racial discrimination as causes of racial disparities in sentencing.

PUBLICATIONS

Snapping Back: Food Stamp Bans and Criminal Recidivism, 2019, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 11(2), 301-327.
Rules Versus Home Rule—Local Government Responses to Negative Revenue Shocks, 2019, *National Tax Journal*, 72(3), 543-574, with D. Shoag and S. Veuger.

WORKING PAPERS

The Long-run Economic Effects of School Desegregation, 2019.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Rising Market Power Versus Changing Technology, with L. Foster & J. Haltiwanger.

School Desegregation and Political Beliefs, with E. Kaplan & J. Spenkuch.

Economic Perspectives on the Orphan Trains, with R. Abramitzky, I. Popov, & M. Uribe-Castro.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Current Issues in American Economic Policy (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Winter 2018

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Prof. John Haltiwanger, Pathways Internship, U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-present

Research Assistant, Profs. Daniel Shoag & Erich Muehlegger, Harvard Kennedy School, 2013-2014

Research Assistant/Programmer, Mathematica Policy Research, 2012-2013

AWARDS & HONORS

Roger and Alicia Betancourt Fellowship in Applied Economics, University of Maryland, 2018

First Prize in Best Third Year Paper Contest, Department of Economics, University of Maryland, 2017

Allan G. Gruchy Fellowship in Economics (with Mateo Uribe-Castro), University of Maryland, 2017

Allan G. Gruchy Fellowship in Economics (with Matt Staiger), University of Maryland, 2017

Dean's Research Initiative Travel Grant, University of Maryland, 2017

Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2017

BSOS Research Interaction Day Grant (with Matt Staiger), University of Maryland, 2017

Graduate Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2014

The Harry Landreth Economics Prize, Centre College, 2012

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2019: Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting (planned); Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Graduate Student Workshop; Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Conference; Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting; American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Meeting

2018: SEA Annual Meeting; Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference; APPAM DC Student Conference

2017: APPAM Fall Research Conference; Spatial Economics Research Centre Conference

2016: SEA Annual Meeting

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

REFERENCES

Prof. Melissa Kearney	University of Maryland	kearney@umd.edu	(301) 405-6202
Prof. John Haltiwanger	University of Maryland	halt@umd.edu	(301) 405-3504
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