

Omar Ahsan

9/29/22

Department of Economics
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027

(646) 957-3160
oa2256@columbia.edu

Placement Chairs: Sandra Black, sblack@columbia.edu, Suresh Naidu, sn2430@columbia.edu
Placement Assistant: Amy Devine, (212) 854-6881, aed2152@columbia.edu

Education:

2023 (expected)	Ph.D. Economics	Columbia University
2020	MPhil Economics	Columbia University
2019	M.A. Economics	Columbia University
2015	B.S. Computer Science & Math	University of Maryland
2015	B.A. Economics	University of Maryland

Honors and Awards:

2021-2022, Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University
2017-2021, Dean's Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University
2015, Dudley and Louisa Dillard Award, UMD
2014, John D. Gannon Scholarship, UMD
2013, Fig Leaf Software Drucker/Gallerizzo Computer Science Scholarship, UMD

Fields of Specialization:

Primary Field: Corporate Finance

Secondary Field: Labor Economics, Microeconomics

Job Market Paper: Resilience in U.S. Firms: Evidence from the Covid-19 Pandemic

Abstract: In this paper, I exploit the Covid-19 pandemic and associated government restrictions as a natural experiment in order to study the resilience of businesses in the United States. I use a border-county identification strategy with data on government restrictions, employment and open small businesses, in order to assess the resilience of small businesses in the United States. In my main results, I find negative impacts of stay-at-home orders on the number of open small merchants. In particular, shutdowns of businesses accelerated 8 weeks after imposition of a stay-at-home order, suggesting that many businesses were only resilient enough to handle adverse conditions for 8 weeks. On average, a county with a stay-at-home order experienced an additional 1.51 percentage points loss in the number of open small businesses, relative to January 2020, 8 weeks later compared to a neighboring county that did not have a stay-at-home order. Firms were quicker to resort to layoffs. On average a county with an active stay at home order in a month experienced an additional 1.28 percentage point loss in employment, relative to January

2020, the following month compared to a neighbor that did not have a stay-at-home order the previous month. I also find that stay-at-home orders caused significant reductions in movement in both directions between neighboring counties.

Working Papers: Career Concerns and Asset Diversification, Career Concerns in Major League Baseball Umpires

Research and Work Experience:

Technology Associate, Morgan Stanley (2017)

Technology Analyst, Goldman Sachs (2015 - 2017)

Teaching Experience:

Corporate Finance, TA (Fall 2022, Summer 2021, Spring 2020)

Intermediate Microeconomics, TA (Fall 2020)

Game Theory, TA (Fall 2019)

Personal:

Born on 05/12/1993

US Citizen

References

Sandra Black:

sblack@columbia.edu

Xavier Giroud:

xavier.giroud@gsb.columbia.edu

Glenn Hubbard:

rgh1@gsb.columbia.edu