

Kyle Coombs

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Department of Economics
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Placement Chairs

Sandy Black, 212-854-3676, sblack@columbia.edu
Suresh Naidu, 212-854-0027, sn2430@columbia.edu

Placement Assistant

Amy Devine, (212) 854-6881, aed2152@columbia.edu

References

Suresh Naidu (co-sponsor)
Professor
Department of Economics
School of International and Public Affairs
Columbia University
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212-854-0027

Miguel Urquiola (co-sponsor)
Professor & Dean of Social Science
Department of Economics
School of International and Public Affairs
Columbia University
msu2101@columbia.edu
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Michael Carlos Best
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Columbia University
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Jack Willis
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Columbia University
jw3634@columbia.edu
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Education

Columbia University, *Ph.D. Candidate in Economics*
Expected completion: May 2023
M.Phil in Economics
B.A. in Economics

2017-Present

2019

2019

Macalester College, *B.A. in Economics*
Magna Cum Laude
Departmental Honors
Robert L. Bunting Prize in Economics

2010-2014

Fields of Specialization

Applied Microeconomics; Public Economics; Labor Economics

Job Market Paper

“Crowding out crowd support? Measuring substitution between formal and informal insurance”

Abstract: I present new results on the informal insurance role of person-to-person (P2P) platforms during unemployment spells in 2019 and 2020. I use a new dataset of administrative bank account balances and transactions with 217,102 users who experience at most one unemployment spell between June 2019 and December of 2020, which are linked to two large-scale surveys ($N = 24,671$ & $N = 12,287$) on expectations and economic preferences. During unemployment, I estimate informal insurance as the P2P inflows in excess of pre-job loss inflows, which makes up 14% and 22% as a share of public and informal insurance for UI recipients in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Event study estimates suggest that inflows from all P2P platforms increase to a peak of \$25 per month on average after job loss for the first three months before falling in the long run and with the decline in inflows closely tracking the timing of UI receipt suggesting a crowd out effect. I use these crowding out estimates to calculate that welfare fell between 4 and 54 cents for the marginal dollar of expanded pandemic UI benefits using the formula provided in Chetty & Saez (2010). To address the possibility that P2P inflows are informal earnings, I use the formula provided in Chetty & Saez (2010) to sign whether this miscategorization leads to an over- or underestimate. Additionally, I present event studies that show gig earnings increase an average of \$10 per month after job loss, which serves as a benchmark for the extent that P2P inflow responses are informal earnings instead of insurance.

Publications

“Early Withdrawal of Pandemic Unemployment Insurance: Effects on Earnings, Employment and Consumption”

(w/ Arindrajit Dube, Calvin Jahnke, Raymond Kluender, Suresh Naidu, & Michael Stepner) *Published: AEA Papers and Proceedings*

Abstract: We examine the effects of the sudden withdrawal of expanded pandemic unemployment benefits in June 2021 using anonymized bank transaction data for 16,253 individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) in April 2021. Comparing the difference-in-differences between states withdrawing and retaining expanded UI, we find that UI receipt falls 36.3 p.p., while employment rises by only 6.8 p.p. by early September. Average cumulative UI benefits fall by \$2,529, while average cumulative earnings increase by only \$292. Heterogeneity by unemployment duration implies that these effects are primarily driven by extensive margin expiration of benefits rather than by intensive margin reductions in the benefit level.

Working Papers

“Effects of Pandemic Unemployment Policies on Consumption, Savings, and Incomes of Workers: Evidence from Linked Survey-Transactions Data” (w/ Arindrajit Dube, Calvin Jahnke, Raymond Kluender, Suresh Naidu, & Michael Stepner)

Abstract: We present new results on the consumption, savings, and income effects of the introduction of the unusually generous unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic in April, their abrupt expiration at the end of July, and their short-term partial reintroduction through August and September. We use a new dataset of administrative bank account balances and transactions 1.2 million workers and 258,065 recipients of UI. We link these administrative data with a large-scale survey ($N = 24,671$) of expectations and economic preferences. We find that account outflows fell by 20% among July UI recipients in the 12 weeks since expiration relative to non-recipients. We find that consumption drops around expiration were muted owing to accumulated savings out of the expanded UI over the March-July period; end of July savings were roughly three times as large as savings in January. The magnitude of the drop in savings following the expiration was larger in households with low expectations of continuing benefits, no children, low risk aversion, and high discount rates. We also find that the temporary Lost Wages Assistance program provided a small but temporary boost to savings and consumption,

and the timing of this boost varied based on the staggered adoption by states.

“Scandal-driven Catholic school closures and charter school response: Dynamics of competition for educational services”

Short Abstract: Find charter schools filled gaps in the education market as private Catholic schools close using event studies around the announcement of abuse scandals within Catholic churches, suggesting these schools are responsive to competition.

In Progress

“Charitable Contributions and the Federal Government” (with Michael Best & Daniel Rogger)

Short Abstract: We exploit plausibly exogenous turnover of the Senate Finance Committee chair to instrument changes in state-level federal spending as they relate to charitable giving.

“The Price of Politics: How much are evangelical Presbyterians willing to pay to separate?”

Short Abstract: Proxy for the value of social policy using variation in the amounts that conservative-learning Presbyterian Churches paid to fulfill a Property Trust Clause and sever ties with the Presbyterian Church (USA) after the denomination voted to allow ordination and marriages of LGBTQ+ individuals.

“Best responses to banning the box? Extensive Labor Supply Responses to Statistical Discrimination”

Short Abstract: Leverage staggered roll out of Ban-The-Box (BTB) laws to analyze job search strategies among the unemployed by race. Early results suggest non-hispanic black men are more likely to apply for jobs within the public sector after laws are passed.

Presentations

Early Withdrawal of Pandemic Unemployment Insurance: Effects on Earnings, Employment and Consumption

AEA Papers & Proceedings Equity And Efficiency In Unemployment Insurance, January 2022 *Online*

Effects of Pandemic Unemployment Policies on Consumption, Savings, and Incomes of Workers: Evidence from Linked Survey-Transactions Data

Innovative Data in Household Finance: Opportunities and Challenges, December 2020 *Online*

Research Assistant

Research Assistant, Columbia University for Suresh Naidu

Spring 2020-Present

Research Assistant, Columbia University for Eric Verhoogen

Fall 2018-Spring 2020

Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Board

2015-2017

Teaching Experience

Columbia University

Instructor of Record, *Public Economics*, solo-taught

Summer 2022

Data Teaching Fellow, *All Senior Seminars* with Michael Best & Susan Elmes

Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant, *Perspectives of Economics* with Suresh Naidu & Joseph Stiglitz

Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant, *The Economics of Race in the United States* with Brendan O’Flaherty

Fall 2020

Federal Reserve Board, joint with Howard University

Teaching Assistant, *Data Analysis and Financial Literacy in R* with William Ampeh & Andrew Cohen

Spring 2017

Macalester College

Teaching Assistant: *Principles of Economics* with Amy Damon

Fall 2014

Supplemental Instructor, Macalester College: *Intermediate Microeconomics* with Sarah West

Spring 2013

Advising

Honors Thesis Committee Member for Nicholas Di, Macalester College

Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Academic Service

Columbia University

Coordinator & Mentor, Economics Diversity Initiative Undergraduate Mentoring Program	2020-Present
President & 2nd-Year Representative, Association of Graduate Economics Students (AGES)	2018-2020
Coordinator & Mentor, AGES First-Year Mentoring Program	2018-2021

Miscellaneous

Nationality: United States

Human Languages: English (Native), Spanish (Fluent), Portuguese (Proficient), Quechua (Basic), French (Basic)

Programming Languages: R, Python, Stata, Mathematica, SAS, SPSS, MATLAB