

Department of Economics
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, August 2008 (expected)

- Dissertation Title: “Alarming Behavior: Exploring the Diversion Effect Associated with Observable Private Precaution”
- Principal Advisor: Charles R. Knoeber, Professor, North Carolina State University

M.E., North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, December 2004

B.A., Economics and Sociology (minor: Math and Psychology), Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY, May 2003

RESEARCH FIELDS

Microeconomics
Industrial Organization
Law and Economics
International Trade
Econometrics

TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Department of Economics, North Carolina State University

- Fundamentals of Economics
- Full responsibility for teaching two sections of a one-semester survey course in microeconomics and macroeconomics directed towards non-majors and engineering students. Developed an online presence in the classroom, including use of an online textbook in Spring 2007, to meet the university’s education technology objectives
- Fall 2005 – Spring 2007

Head Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, North Carolina State University

- Fundamentals of Economics taught by David N. Hyman, Professor and Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor
- Responsible for administrative duties for a 400-student lecture course in microeconomics and macroeconomics, training new teaching assistants, and teaching up to three lab accompaniments each semester
- Fall 2004- Spring 2005

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, North Carolina State University

- Fundamentals of Economics taught by David N. Hyman, Professor and Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor
- Responsible for teaching up to four lab accompaniments to a 400-student survey lecture course in microeconomics and macroeconomics each semester
- Fall 2003 – Spring 2004

Consultant, .learn, Inc., Piscataway, NJ

- Edited study guide and test bank questions for “Economics,” 6th Interactive Edition © 2006, written by David N. Hyman
- Summer 2006 - Fall 2007

Administrative Support Student, SAS Institute, Inc. Finance Division, Cary, NC

- Drafted policy and procedure, authored instructional materials, and conducted training sessions for new employees, among other administrative duties
- Summer 2004 – Present

Teaching Assistant, Sylvan Learning Center, Raleigh, NC

- Tutored elementary and high school students in mathematics and study skills
- Fall 2003 – Spring 2004

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, Bellarmine University

- Principles of Economics taught by Myra McCrickard, Professor
- Responsible for grading class homework and exams and leading weekly study sessions
- Spring 2003

TEACHING RECOGNITION

North Carolina State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Winner

- Spring 2007

North Carolina State University’s Graduate Student Association Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Nominee

- Spring 2007

Preparing the Professoriate Program, The Graduate School of North Carolina State University

- From a pool of 2,000 applicants, selected as one of twenty students to participate in significant mentoring experience with distinguished faculty members for one academic year. Used the opportunity to experiment with an online textbook and technology in the classroom
- Fall 2006 – Spring 2007

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

“Developing and Evaluating Teaching Portfolios”

- Web Conference sponsored by the North Carolina State University FCTL and the Graduate School
- October 26, 2007

“Online Workshop: Engaging Students with PowerPoint: Can it be done?”

- Sponsored by the North Carolina State University FCTL
- May 2007

North Carolina State University New Graduate Student Orientation Teaching Breakout Session for Colleges of Design, Education and Management

- Hosted jointly with John Lapp, North Carolina State University, Professor
- August 2006

Emerging Issues Forum 2007: Transforming Higher Education

- Sponsored by North Carolina State University Institute for Emerging Issues
- February 1-2, 2007

5th Annual Economics Teaching Workshop: “Targeting Economic Literacy”

- Sponsored by the University of North Carolina – Wilmington
- October 2005

“All About Course Goals, Objectives, and Learning Outcomes”

- Sponsored by the North Carolina State University FCTL
- September 2004

“Learning Simplified”

- Sponsored by the North Carolina State University FCTL
- October 2004

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

“Observable Private Precautionary Measures and Their Effects on Crime: The Case of Burglar Alarms.” Applied Microeconomics/Industrial Organization Workshop, North Carolina State University, November 2007

“The Relative Effectiveness of Tax Policy When Considering Mitigating Factors Influencing Tobacco Consumption of American Youth.” *Issues in Political Economy*, Volume 12, August 2003

Research Assistant, Department of Economics, Bellarmine University

- Provided research assistance on the returns to education for Frank Slesnick, Professor
- Fall 2002 – Spring 2003

“The Relationship Between Leadership Qualities of Only Children and Birth Order.” Butler University’s 14th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference, April 2002

WORKING PAPERS

“Observable Private Precaution and Its Effect on Crime: The Case of Burglar Alarms.”

“Using the Relationship Between Homeowners’ Insurance Company Market Shares and Protective Device Discounts to Measure Crime Diversion.”

“Estimating the Diversion Effect of Observable Private Precautionary Measures Using the Probability of Burglary in Non-Alarmed Households.”

HONORS AND AWARDS

John W. Pope Dissertation Fellowship Recipient, Present

Valedictorian, Bellarmine University, Class of 2003

Summa Cum Laude Graduate, Bellarmine University, Class of 2003

“In Veritatis Amore” Award, Bellarmine University, Class of 2003

Bellarmino University Rubel School of Business Faculty Merit Award, Class of 2003

Bellarmino University Faculty Merit Award in Economics, Class of 2003

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

“Alarming Behavior: Exploring the Diversion Effect Associated with Observable Private Precaution”

Homeowners exercise property rights by engaging in private precautionary measures to supplement public protection offered by police and courts. When these precautionary measures are observable to criminals, as in the case of burglar alarms advertised in the form of a sticker or sign on a window or mailbox, they have the beneficial effect of increasing the probability of apprehension should the alarmed home be burgled. However, because a burglar is rational in his criminal activity, a burglar will avoid protected homes and target those without alarms. Observable private precautionary measures therefore incorporate both the deterrence (Clotfelter 1978) and diversion (Shavell 1991) effects. I contribute to the literature on the economics of crime by empirically exploring the diversion effect associated with burglar alarms. Because of a lack of data on burglar alarm adoption, I use security system services sales by county as a proxy for burglar alarm installation. OLS estimation shows that burglar alarms have a statistically significant and negative effect on burglary rates. However, estimation also reveals that burglary rates respond inelastically to burglar alarms. This finding of inelasticity is consistent with diversion muting the effectiveness of burglar alarms on burglary rates. My research goes a step further by taking two approaches to estimating the separate effect of diversion. Both applications use a unique dataset consisting of insurance company market shares, base premiums, and protective device discounts from the state of Illinois, where insurance pricing is deregulated. The first approach focuses on the fact that companies insuring more non-alarmed homes likely face larger costs due to crime diversion. Differences in market shares of insurance companies, relative to the discount they offer, are used to extract the diversion effect associated with burglar alarms. The second approach investigates the diversion effect in an oligopolistic setting using the empirical method established by Berry, Levinsohn, and Pakes (1995) in measuring supply and demand parameters in an oligopolistic framework. The probability of burglary in non-alarmed homes is calculated when some homes install alarms, as well as when all households are non-alarmed. The difference in these probabilities provides an estimate of the diversion effect generated by increased burglar alarm installation. This research provides a better understanding of how seemingly beneficial observable private precautionary measures can also be costly to society.

REFERENCES

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