

# Geoffrey C. Schnorr

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Website: <https://geoffreyschnorr.com>  
Citizenship: USA

**EDUCATION** Ph.D. Economics, University of California, Davis, 2021  
M.A. Economics, Hunter College, CUNY, 2015  
B.S. Health Care Management and Policy, Georgetown University, 2011

**RESEARCH INTERESTS** Public, Labor, Health

**EMPLOYMENT** Postdoctoral Scholar, California Policy Lab at UCLA, Fall 2021-  
joint with the California Employment Development Department

**PUBLICATIONS** **Unemployment Insurance as a Worker Indiscipline Device? Evidence from Scanner Data**  
(with Lester Lusher and Rebecca Taylor)  
*American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2022

**Estimating the Disparate Cumulative Impact of the Pandemic in Administrative Unemployment Insurance Data** (with Alex Bell, T.J. Hedin, Peter Mannino, Roozbeh Moghadam, Carl Romer, and Till von Wachter)  
*American Economic Association Papers & Proceedings*, 2022

**Disparities in Access to Unemployment Insurance During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons from U.S. and California Claims Data** (with Alex Bell, T.J. Hedin, Peter Mannino, Roozbeh Moghadam, and Till von Wachter)  
*RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, forthcoming

**WORKING PAPERS** **Am I My Brother's Barkeeper? Sibling Spillovers in Alcohol Consumption at the Minimum Legal Drinking Age** (with Eunju Lee)  
R & R at *American Journal of Health Economics*

**UI Benefit Generosity and Labor Supply from 2002-2020: Evidence from California UI Records** (with Alex Bell, T.J. Hedin, and Till von Wachter)  
R & R at *Journal of Labor Economics*

## **Claim Timing and Unemployment Insurance Benefit Generosity**

Unemployment Insurance replaces a percentage of prior earnings while a claimant is out of work. To implement the program, policymakers must define a base period from which prior earnings are measured. I analyze two implications of this previously unexamined policy choice. First, for claimants with volatile enough earnings, a commonly used base period structure creates “benefit risk”—a job loss at the wrong time implies lower benefit amounts. Second, since base periods are determined by the claim filing date, claimants can partially avoid the negative effects of this risk by strategically timing their claims. Using several new sources of administrative data from California’s Unemployment Insurance program, I make three contributions. First, I use a simple dynamic model of job search and Unemployment Insurance to show that the private welfare costs of benefit risk are large. The average claimant would trade 5% of their expected Unemployment Insurance benefits to eliminate exposure to benefit risk and this number rises substantially among young and especially low-income claimants. Second, I demonstrate that claim-timing responses can act as an effective solution to this problem. Some claimants strategically delay their claims after a job loss in order to receive higher benefits. Third, I provide suggestive evidence that information frictions are a key barrier to this mitigating behavior.

**Keep Me In, Coach: The Short- and Long-Term Effects of Targeted Academic Coaching** (with Serena Canaan, Stefanie Fischer, and Pierre Mouganie)

**No-Fault Job Loss? Less Moral Hazard** (with Jonathan Cohen)

**SELECTED  
WORKS IN  
PROGRESS**

**The Effect of Pandemic Added Benefits on Unemployment Insurance Take-up** (with Alex Bell and Till von Wachter)

**POLICY WORK**

**Employment and Earnings Among LA County Residents Experiencing Homelessness** (with Till von Wachter and Nefara Riesch), *California Policy Lab Policy Brief*, 2020.

**California Unemployment Insurance Claims During the COVID-19 Pandemic** (with Alex Bell, Thomas J. Hedin, Peter Mannino, Roozbeh Moghadam, Carl Romer and Till von Wachter), *California Policy Lab Policy Brief*, 2020-2022.

Series of over one dozen policy briefs analyzing daily initial UI claims to provide an in-depth look at how the COVID-19 crisis is impacting various industries, regions, and types of workers throughout California.

**SELECTED  
PRE-PHD  
PUBLICATIONS**

**Overspending driven by oversized single dose vials of cancer drugs** (with Peter Bach, Rena Conti, Raymond Mueller, and Leonard Saltz), *British Medical Journal*, 2016.

**TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE**

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Microeconomics (UC Davis)      Fall 2015, Winter 2016, Fall 2016  
Teaching Assistant, Economic Statistics (Hunter College, CUNY)      Spring 2014  
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Microeconomics (Hunter College, CUNY)      Fall 2013

**RESEARCH  
EXPERIENCE**

Graduate Student Assistant for Till von Wachter,      Summer 2018 - Summer 2021  
joint with the California Employment Development Department  
Graduate Student Researcher for Marianne Page      Winter 2017 -Spring 2018

**AWARDS**

Early Career Research Award, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research      2022  
Postdoctoral Grant, Washington Center for Equitable Growth      2021-2022  
Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Dissertation Fellowship, UC Davis      2020-2021  
Graduate Fellowship, UC Davis      2017  
Non-Resident Tuition Remission, UC Davis      2015-2016

**PRESENTATIONS (including scheduled)**

**2023:** Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics (SoCCAM), IIPF Annual Congress  
**2022:** Washington Center for Equitable Growth Grantee Conference  
**2020:** California Policy Lab, SOLE-EALE-AASLE World Conference, IZA Workshop on Labor Market Institutions, UC Santa Barbara, NTA Annual Conference, UC Davis Applied Micro Brownbag  
**2019:** UC Davis Applied Micro Brownbag (x2), California Policy Lab, UC Davis Alumni conference (poster), Hawaii Applied Micro One Day Conference  
**2018:** APPAM California Student Regional Conference  
**2017:** APPAM Fall Research Conference (poster), UC Davis Applied Micro Brownbag

**Professional  
Activities**

**Referee:** American Journal of Health Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (x2), Journal of Public Economics  
**Service:** Graduate Student Mentor, UC Davis (2016 - 2018)

## References

### **Marianne Bitler**

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University of California, Davis

### **Till von Wachter**

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Professor

University of California, Los Angeles

### **Monica Singhal**

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Associate Professor

University of California, Davis

### **Brendan Price**

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Economist

Federal Reserve Board of Governors

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