

# Geoffrey C. Schnorr

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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*, 2023

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

**Keep Me In, Coach: The Short- and Long-Term Effects of Targeted Academic Coaching**  
(with Serena Canaan, Stefanie Fischer, and Pierre Mouganie)  
R & R at *Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics*

**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*

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

Unemployment insurance (UI) eligibility requires a claimant to have lost their job through no fault of their own. Approximately 10% of claims are deemed ineligible solely based on the job separation reason. Using the systematic variation in separation-based eligibility approval rates across UI claim processing offices and examiners in California from 2002 to 2019, we show that receiving any UI benefits causes approximately 2 additional weeks of nonemployment. By replicating existing research designs for other UI policy margins within the California data, we conclude the efficiency costs of UI benefit expansions through separation-based eligibility criteria are lower compared to those of expansions through monetary eligibility, weekly benefit amount, or potential benefit duration.

## 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.

### SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

**The Effect of Pandemic Added Benefits on Unemployment Insurance Take-up** (with 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), UC Davis Alumni Conference, IIPF Annual Congress, UC Merced

**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, Economic Inquiry (x2), 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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Professor  
University of California, Davis

**Monica Singhal**  
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Associate Professor  
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Senior Economist  
Federal Reserve Board of Governors

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