

Geoffrey C. Schnorr

CONTACT INFORMATION University of California, Davis
Department of Economics
Davis, CA 95616
Email: gcschnorr@ucdavis.edu

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

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

RESEARCH INTERESTS Public, Labor, Health

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

We provide causal evidence of an ex-ante moral hazard effect of Unemployment Insurance (UI) by matching plausibly exogenous changes in UI benefit duration across state-weeks during the Great Recession to high-frequency productivity measures from individual supermarket cashiers. Estimating models with day and cashier-register fixed effects, we identify a modest but statistically significant negative relationship between UI benefits and worker productivity. This effect is strongest for more experienced and less productive cashiers, for whom UI expansions are especially relevant. Additional analyses from the American Time Use Survey reveal a similar increase in shirking during periods with increased UI benefit durations.

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.

Am I My Brother’s Barkeeper? Sibling Spillovers in Alcohol Consumption at the Minimum Legal Drinking Age

I exploit a unique group of adolescent peers which allows for the estimation of causally interpretable peer effects in alcohol consumption, sibling pairs close to the minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) in the United States. Using a regression discontinuity design and the 1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth I am consistently able to rule out meaningfully large positive peer effects between siblings. I also find suggestive evidence that younger siblings reduce their alcohol consumption in response to an increase in their older sibling’s alcohol consumption. These negative effects are concentrated among siblings of the same gender, siblings that reside in the same household, and especially younger siblings with less prior drinking experience.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS **Peer Effects in the Take-up of Unemployment Insurance Unemployment Insurance, Labor Supply, and Recall During the Coronavirus Crisis** (with Alex Bell and Till von Wachter)
Employment and Earnings Among LA County Residents Experiencing Homelessness (with Till von Wachter and Nefara Riesch), *expanded version of policy brief with same title*

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 and Till von Wachter), *California Policy Lab Policy Brief*, 2020.

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 and the California Employment Development Department Summer 2018 - current
Graduate Student Researcher for Marianne Page Winter 2017 -Spring 2018

AWARDS Doctoral 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) **2021:** AEA Annual Meeting*
2020: California Policy Lab, SOLE-EALE-AASLE World Conference, IZA Workshop on Labor Market Institutions, UC Santa Barbara, NTA Annual Conference, 3rd Bank of Italy/CEPR Labour Workshop*
2019: UC Davis Applied Micro Brownbag (x2), California Policy Lab, UC Davis Alumni conference (poster), Hawaii Applied Micro One Day Conference, IZA 4th Annual Jr/Sr Symposium*, Texas A&M*, University of Oregon*, APPAM Fall Research Conference*, UC Center Sacramento*
2018: APPAM California Student Regional Conference, Hawaii Applied Micro One Day Conference*
2017: APPAM Fall Research Conference (poster), UC Davis Applied Micro Brownbag
(* = coauthor presented)

Professional Activities **Referee:** Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Human Resources, American Journal of Health Economics
Service: Graduate Student Mentor, UC Davis (2016 - current)

References **Marianne Bitler** **Monica Singhal**
bitler@ucdavis.edu msinghal@ucdavis.edu
Professor Associate Professor
University of California, Davis University of California, Davis

Till von Wachter **Brendan Price**
tvwachter@econ.ucla.edu Brenda.M.Price@frb.gov
Professor Economist
University of California, Los Angeles Federal Reserve Board of Governors