

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, 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*

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)

UI Benefit Generosity and Labor Supply from 2002-2020: Evidence from California UI Records (with Alex Bell, T.J. Hedin, and Till von Wachter)

**SELECTED
WORKS IN
PROGRESS**

Unemployment Insurance Eligibility and “At-Fault” Job Loss: Implications for Reciprocity, Unemployment Duration, and Earnings (with Jonathan Cohen)

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)**

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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Economist

Federal Reserve Board of Governors

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