

# Benjamin Glasner

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## EDUCATION

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2019 – 2021

### Ph.D. in Public Policy & Management

Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington  
Committee:

- Professor Mark C. Long, marklong@uw.edu
- Professor Jacob L. Vigdor, jvigdor@uw.edu
- Assistant Professor Caroline Weber, caroline.weber@uky.edu

2016 – 2019

### Master of Science, Public Policy and Management

Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington

2012–2016

### B.A. Economics

Vassar College

## AWARDS

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2020 Pi Alpha Alpha Doctoral  
Manuscript Award

• Recognizes an outstanding student paper. Nominated papers are judged on the basis of relevance of the topic, appropriate use of methodology, quality of presentation, originality, innovativeness, clarity, and academic quality.

2020 NASPAA Staats Emerging  
Scholar

• Recognizes up to three PhD candidates who are job seeking for an academic position in the coming academic year. Candidates are selected to present a paper at the annual conference in front of national and international public service education leaders who make hiring decisions.

The Agnes Reynolds Jackson  
Prize

• Established December 1986 by Robert F. Jackson in memory of his wife, Agnes Reynolds. In past years this award has gone to the senior whose paper is judged to be the best senior seminar paper.

## RESEARCH

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***The Minimum Wage, Self-Employment, and the Online Gig Economy*** (Drafts presented at LERA 2019, APPAM 2019, and ASSA 2021)

**This paper is currently a revision and resubmission with the Journal of Labor Economics.** This paper estimates the impact of the minimum wage on work exempted from minimum wages. Using two-way fixed effect models, recently updated difference-in-difference methods, and a generalized synthetic control method, I find that increases in the minimum wage have little impact on traditional self-employment, but do impact work done in the online gig economy. For a 10% increase in the minimum wage, the number of nonemployer establishments classified as transportation and warehousing services increases by 3.9%. This positive relationship is driven by counties with low labor market concentration and an active online gig economy, as measured by the presence of Uber. Areas where an increase in the number of transportation and warehousing workers occurs also see a reduction in the average receipts, as expected from a competitive model of the minimum wage.

**Medicaid Expansion's Effect on Self-Employment: Employment Lock and Tax Evasion** (Under Review. Draft presented at LERA 2020)

Abstract: This paper tests whether the expansion of Medicaid following the Affordable Care Act impacted reported self-employment. Using administrative tax data and national surveys, I find evidence of a negative effect of Medicaid expansion on unincorporated self-employment and nonemployer establishments. I estimate that states which expanded Medicaid had 2.5% fewer nonemployer establishments, and a reduction in total declared receipts of 1.49%. Using data from 2013, before Medicaid expanded, this was equivalent to a \$10-billion-dollar reduction in declared earnings by the self-employed and just under 350,000 fewer declared nonemployer establishments among states which expanded Medicaid. Using data on Uber, an informational reporting platform, I find evidence that the reduction in declared self-employment is significantly manipulated in reference to the means-tested Medicaid expansion.

**Measuring Seasonal Poverty** With Paul Christian and Brian Dillon

Abstract: Using large representative surveys collected at uniform intervals over time and across Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, and Peru, we demonstrate that poverty rates vary widely in different periods of the year. We use random forests to develop a feasible method of measuring seasonal influences on consumption which does not rely on a priori knowledge about ecologies or the functional form of an equation governing consumption. Our method of seasonality can be used to incorporate seasonality and timing of poverty into poverty measurement to assess welfare. Applications of these measures could be used in targeting applications to differentially target households who are chronically poor vs only expected to be poor in lean seasons or in impact evaluations of programs expected to reduce exposure to seasonality.

*Developing Papers*

- Multi-job holding and the Minimum Wage
- Low Wage Worker Identification in Administrative Data: The Case for Machine Learning (Poster presented at LERA 2020)
- The Self-Employed Response to Covid-19: the Gender Divide
- Adverse Selection and Prejudice in the Airbnb Market
- The Chinese Hukou System: Structural Change and Political Reform

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

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September 2021 – Present

**Postdoctoral Research Scientist,**

Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University, New York

- Conduct analyses of the effects of major social policies and reforms thereto on the poverty rate and other key indicators of well-being
- These include long-term studies of the intergenerational transmission of poverty and impacts of contemporary policies and their effects

September 2020 – March 2021

**Dean's Research Assistant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Served as the primary resource for assisting faculty in the transition to Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL)
- Performed department level analysis on the status of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-racist course design and teaching performance
- Developed action plans for the future of the Evans School as a direct result of interviews and surveys among faculty, staff, students, alumni, and donors

March 2020 – June 2020

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Taught Quantitative Analysis II
- Via remote instruction, taught live and asynchronous lectures covering data analysis
- Responsible for grading work

January 2020 – March 2020

**Predocctoral Instructor**

University of Washington, Seattle

- The primary instructor for Economics for Policy Analysis and Management II

September 2019 – January 2020

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Worked under Jacob Vigdor
- Working on the Seattle Minimum Wage Project
- Using Machine learning and traditional prediction techniques I assessed the validity of industry based minimum wage studies in comparison to administrative hours data from UI records
- This work will be presented at LERA's 72nd Annual Meeting, June 13-16, 2020, Portland, OR

June 2018 – September 2018

### **World Bank Group Short Term Consultant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Perform expenditure analysis on household surveys in Malawi, Tanzania, Ghana, Peru, and Cote d'Ivoire.
- Use machine learning techniques to create estimates of parametric, semi-parametric, and non-parametric models of seasonality
- Develop a working paper using these results

September 2017 – June 2018

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Taught Economics for Policy Analysis and Management I and II as well as Introduction to Public Policy
- Teach two sessions per week as well as office hours twice a week
- Responsible for grading work

January 2017 – September 2017

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Worked under Brian Dillon
- Supporting previously started working papers on behavioral and development economics
- Began a project on the prediction of seasonal consumption paths in relation to poverty measures, currently titled "Measuring Seasonal Poverty"

September 2016 – January 2017, June 2019 - January 2020

### **Graduate Research Assistant**

University of Washington, Seattle

- Worked under Rachel Fyall
- Conducted research in support of both curriculum needs and active projects
- Built project proposals/outlines and worked on Coauthoring projects

September 2015 – May 2016

### **Economic Department Intern**

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie

- Introductory Microeconomics and Macroeconomics
- Worked as a grader and academic support system if needed in class
- Hosted office hours twice a week

Summer of 2015

### **Ford Scholar**

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie

- Conduct research on economic structural change globally
- Concluded this work with a comprehensive dataset and descriptions of 40 countries economic sectors growth by productivity between 1970 and 2010

## **References**

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*Professor Mark Long*

- <https://evans.uw.edu/profile/mark-long/>
- marklong@uw.edu
- (206) 543-3787

*Professor Jake Vigdor*

- <https://evans.uw.edu/profile/jacob-vigdor/>
- jvigdor@uw.edu
- (206) 616-4436

Assistant Professor Caroline Weber

- <https://martin.uky.edu/caroline-weber>
- [caroline.weber@uky.edu](mailto:caroline.weber@uky.edu)
- (859) 562-3179

## Community Outreach

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- Public Policy*
- Served as an advisor to the Seattle Mayor's Office on local legislation governing and supporting nonstandard work arrangements and the online gig economy
  - Consulted with an advisory team member for Senator Mark Warner regarding the effect of Covid-19 on local labor markets, independent contracting, and unemployment insurance
- New tools*
- Supported the development of new administrative data tools with the Washington State Employment Security Department, including work with the Seattle Minimum Wage project
  - Developed and delivered a random forest methodology to support the analysis of incomplete survey data across developing economies for the World Bank
- Journalism*
- Served as a consult for journalistic pieces written on the effects of the minimum wage
  - Participated in the Political Economy Forum's podcast