

LESTER R. LUSHER

University of Hawaii at Manoa
Department of Economics
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Economics, Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Metascience, Behavioral Economics

EDUCATION - UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Ph.D. Economics, 2017; M.A. Economics, 2012; B.A. Economics, B.A. Statistics, Psychology Minor, 2011

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Co-editor, *Economic Inquiry*, 2023-
Associate Prof., University of Pittsburgh, Department of Economics, 2023-
Associate Prof., University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Economics, 2022-2023
Assistant Prof., University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Economics & Public Policy Center, 2017-2022
Visiting Professor, Keio University, July 2023-December 2023
Visiting Professor, Keio University, Summer 2022
Research Affiliate, IZA, 2019-
Research Affiliate, California Education Lab, 2017-

RESEARCH

Publications

- Ballis, B., Lusher, L., Martorell, P., The Effects of Exam Frames on Student Effort and Performance. *Economics of Education Review*, 2022
- Lusher, L., Schnorr, G., Taylor, R., Unemployment Insurance as a Working Indiscipline Device? Evidence from Scanner Data. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2022
-Media: *IZA Commentary*
- Kurlaender, M., Lusher, L., Case, M., Is Early Start a Better Start? Evaluating California State University's Early Start Remediation Efforts. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2020
- Lusher, L., Yasenov, V., Luong, P., Does Schedule Irregularity Affect Productivity? Evidence from Random Assignment into College Classes. *Labour Economics*, 2019
- Campbell, D., Lusher, L., The Impact of Real Exchange Rate Shocks on Manufacturing Workers: An Autopsy from the MORG. *Journal of International Money and Finance*, 2019
- Lusher, L., Campbell, D., Carrell, S., TAs Like Me: Racial Interactions between Graduate Teaching Assistants and Undergraduates. *Journal of Public Economics*, 2018 (NBER working paper 21568)
-Media: *Slate, Inside Higher Ed, Washington Examiner, The National Review, The Daily Illini*
- Lusher, L., He, C., Fick, S., Are Professional Basketball Players Reference-Dependent? *Applied Economics*, 2018
- Lusher, L., Yasenov, V., Gender Performance Gaps: Quasi-experimental Evidence on the Role of Gender Differences in Sleep Cycles. *Economic Inquiry*, 2018
-Media: *The Washington Post, The Independent, Education Week, The National Post, IZA Newsroom*
- Lusher, L., Yasenov, V., Double-shift Schooling and Student Success: Quasi-experimental Evidence from Europe. *Economics Letters*, 2016

Working Papers

- “Unpacking P-hacking and Publication Bias” (with Abel Brodeur, Scott Carrell, & David Figlio)
- Conditionally accepted: *American Economic Review*
- “Clubs and Networks in Economics Reviewing” (with Scott Carrell & David Figlio)
- Revise & resubmit: *Journal of Political Economy*

“Congestion on the Information Superhighway: Does Economics Have a Working Papers Problem?” (with Winnie Yang & Scott Carrell)

- Conditionally accepted: *Journal of Public Economics*

“Slow Traffic, Fast Food: The Effects of Time Lost on Food Choice” (with Panka Bencsik & Rebecca Taylor)

-Media: *IZA World of Labor*

“VOG: Using Volcanic Eruptions to Estimate the Impact of Particulates on Student Learning Outcomes” (with Aureo De Paula, Timothy Halliday, & Rachel Inafuku)

“Minimum Wage and Higher Education” (with Scott Carrell & Alice Li)

“Major Disappointment: A Large-scale Experiment on (Non-)Pecuniary Information and Major Choice” (with Scott Carrell & Derek Rury)

“Peer Review Exhibits the Gambler’s Fallacy” (with Scott Carrell & David Figlio)

Research In Progress

“Survival of the Scandalous? Retractions, Failed Replications, and Salaries” (with Abel Brodeur)

“Pocket Aces: Commitment and Incentives Against Smartphones for Students” (Billur Aksoy & Scott Carrell)

“College Better: Parimutuel Betting Markets as a Commitment Device and Monetary Incentive”

“Stigma Goods, Self-Checkout Adoption, and Changes in Purchasing Decisions” (with Rebecca Cardinali, Rebecca Taylor, & Sofia Villas-Boas)

“Killer Alerts? Public Health Warnings and Heat Stroke in Japan” (with Tim Ruberg)

“#Tenure? The Effect of Media Attention on Career Outcomes” (with Nick Halliwell)

EXTERNAL HONORS & AWARDS

2019-2022 J-PAL North America Education Technology and Opportunity Full Research Project ~\$149,396

2017-2020 J-PAL North America Full Research Project Grant ~\$94,210

2016-2017 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant ~\$10,041

2015 Russell Sage Foundation Small Grants in Behavioral Economics ~\$5,370

2015 IEP Workshop - Best Student/Early Career Presentation Award

2014 University of Chicago & Templeton - Science of Philanthropy Initiative PhD Grant Award ~\$4,200

2014 EBSA “Into the Bullpen” Business Idea Competition: First place for CollegeBetter.com

INTERNAL HONORS & AWARDS - UH MANOA & UC DAVIS

2018-2019 College of Social Sciences Research Travel Award ~\$1,533

2018-2019 College of Social Sciences Research Support Award ~\$11,501

2017-2018 Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research Travel Award ~\$2,000

2016 Office of Research Innovator of the Year Finalist

2016 Institute for Social Sciences Dissertation Improvement Grant ~\$1,000

2015 Institute for Social Sciences Dissertation Improvement Grant ~\$800

2015 Graduate Student Association Fall Travel Award ~\$500

2015 Institute for Social Sciences Summer Research Support Award ~\$450

2015 Interdisciplinary Graduate & Professional Student Symposium Grad Slam Finalist

2014 IGA and Department of Economics Travel & Research Award ~\$350

2014 Graduate Student Association Spring Travel Award ~\$367.05

2013 Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award

REFEREE EXPERIENCE

American Economic Review, *PNAS*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *Economic Journal* (x2), *Journal of the European Economic Association* (x5), *Journal of Human Resources* (x10), *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* (x2), *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* (x2), *Economics Letters*, *Economics of Education Review* (x3), *Canadian Journal of Economics*, *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, *Education Economics* (x2), *International Review of Economics Education*, *Journal of Education*, *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, *Economics of Transition*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *B.E.*

PRESENTATIONS (including upcoming)

- 2023:** UC Irvine, San Diego State University, Tokyo University, Keio University, Osaka University
- 2022:** University of Queensland, University of Pittsburgh, Keio University, UCSD Rady School of Management, Cal Poly SLO, UC Merced
- 2021:** Southern Economic Association 91st Annual Meeting, University of Hawaii at Manoa Shidler College of Business, UC Santa Cruz, University of Auckland, 6th International Conference on Applied Economics (Kobe University)
- 2020:** Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Hawaii Economic Association Luncheon, EALE SOLE AASLE World Conference
- 2019:** University of Hawaii at Manoa, UC Davis Alumni Conference, WEAI 15th International Conference, 4th IZA Junior/Senior Symposium (UT Austin), Texas A&M University, International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education
- 2018:** UC Irvine, WEAI 14th International Conference, WEAI International Conference Early Career Workshop
- 2017:** AEFPP 42nd Annual Conference, Sacramento State University, Clemson University, George Washington University, San Jose State University, Middlebury College, West Point Military Academy, New York University Abu Dhabi, Hamilton College, University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Sydney Workshop on Behavioural Economics
- 2016:** APPAM Fall Research Conference, University of Chicago - Advances with Field Experiments Conference, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara Labor Lunch, All California Labor Economics Conference (Poster), UC Davis Applied Microeconomics Brownbag (x2), Claremont McKenna - Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics (SoCCAM), WEAI Graduate Student Dissertation Workshop, University of Calgary 3rd Annual Microeconomics Workshop (Banff), Bay Area Behavioral and Experimental Economics Workshop (UC Berkeley), AEFPP 41st Annual Conference
- 2015:** University of Leicester - Economics PhD Conference, University of Chicago - 2015 SPI Annual Conference, IFREE's 21st Visiting Graduate Student Workshop in Experimental Economics, UC Davis Interdisciplinary Graduate & Professional Student Symposium, UC Davis Applied Microeconomics Brownbag (x3)
- 2014:** University of Chicago - 2014 SPI Annual Conference (Poster), MERIT Workshop on Experiments with Governments (University of Chicago), UC Davis Theory Brownbag

TEACHING

- Instructor (UH Manoa):** Introductory Microeconomics, Advanced Econometrics, Graduate Public Economics
- Instructor (UC Davis):** Economics of Education, Game Theory, (Graduate) Teaching of Economics
- Teaching Assistant (UC Davis):** Graduate Game Theory (x2), Introductory Econometrics, Labor Economics, Game Theory, Introductory Macroeconomics (x5), Energy Economics, International Macroeconomics

OTHER POSITIONS & ACTIVITIES

- Hawaii Economic Association Board of Directors (January 2019-December 2020)
- UH Manoa Economics Department Graduate Committee (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)
- UH Manoa Economics Department Seminar Co-Organizer (Fall 2017-)
- UC Davis Undergraduate Research Center, Graduate Mentor (Fall 2013 - Spring 2016)
- UC Davis Economics Department, Graduate Mentor (Fall 2012 - Spring 2016)
- UC Davis Economics Department, Graduate Student Representative (Fall 2012 - Spring 2014)

SELECTED MEDIA

- “The Home Team Advantage: Why students who are the same race as their TAs get better grades”
9/22/2015, *Slate*
- “Study: College students learn better with same-race TAs”, 9/22/2015, *Washington Examiner*
- “Study finds that students earn better grades from teaching assistants of same race or ethnicity”

9/21/2015, *Inside Higher Ed*
“TAs Like Me”, 9/21/2015, *The National Review*
“Research suggests race similarities may lead to better performance”, 9/29/2015, *The Daily Illini*
“Teaching assistants like me? Here’s what could change”, 11/9/2015, *The Conversation*
“The powerful thing that happens when the school day starts in the afternoon”
8/5/2016, *The Washington Post*
“A late start to the day could be key to improving boys’ lagging classroom performance, study suggests”
8/5/2016, *The National Post*
“Girls do better than boys at school because they’re morning people, study suggests”
8/9/2016, *The Independent*
“Would later school start times help close the gender performance gap?”, 8/11/2016, *Education Week*
“Different sleep cycles can explain part of the gender performance gap in education”
9/7/2016, *IZA Newsroom*
“Drivers of inequality: Trade shocks verses top marginal tax rates”, 9/8/2016, *VoxEU*
“Your Brian on Taxes”, 4/18/2018, *Hawai’i Public Radio*
“Can Money Motivate Students? Hawai’i Econ Professor Hopes to Find Out”
1/10/2019, *Hawai’i Public Radio*

REFERENCES

Scott Carrell

University of California, Davis
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David Figlio

University of Rochester
david.figlio@rochester.edu

Heather Royer

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