

# Jennifer Bernard

University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Department of Economics  
College of Business HLH 511V  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0489

[jennifer.bernard@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:jennifer.bernard@huskers.unl.edu)  
(w) 402-472-3440  
(m) 559-917-5031  
[www.jenniferbernard.me](http://www.jenniferbernard.me)

## EDUCATION

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2020 (expected)	PhD, Economics, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
2016	MA, Economics, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
2014	BA, Economics, California State University, Fresno

## RESEARCH FIELDS

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Primary fields: Labor and Public economics  
Secondary field: Regional economics

## ACADEMIC AWARDS

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### *Scholarships, Grants, and Academic Programs*

- McConnell Fellowship, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 2018-19
- Bingham Fellowship, UNL, 2017-18
- Othmer Fellowship, UNL, 2014-Present
- Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, 2013 cohort
- Maddy Institute Legislative Scholar Intern Program, Spring 2013
- Undergraduate Research Grant, 2013
- Harlan Hagen Academic Scholarship, 2013

### *Academic Recognition*

- Excellence in Graduate Teaching, Department of Economics, UNL, 2016, 2017, 2018
- Graduate Teaching Award, College of Business, UNL, 2016
- Winner, Charles McCall Award for Best Undergraduate Paper (CSU Social Science Research Conference): An Examination of California's Realignment Policy and Property Crime Rates
- Wells Fargo Award for Excellence in Economics (CSU-Fresno), 2014
- Resolution commending service, Assembly Member Jim Patterson, District 23, California State Assembly, 2013

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

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2016-18	Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Daniel Tannenbaum
2014-16	Bureau of Business Research, Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Eric Thompson
2013-14	Research Assistant, Office of Institutional Effectiveness, CSU-Fresno
2013	Intern, Assembly Member Jim Patterson, Fresno, CA

## PRESENTATIONS

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2019 APPAM CA Regional Student Conference (2019, planned)  
83rd Annual Conference, Midwest Economics Association (2019, planned)  
88th Annual Conference, Southern Economics Association (2018)  
110th Annual Conference on Taxation, National Tax Association (2017)  
Microeconomics Working Group (UNL, 2016, 2017, 2018)

## SERVICE

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- 2016-18 Graduate Student Representative, Senior Search Committee, UNL
- 2017-18 Graduate Committee Representative, Department of Economics, UNL
- 205-16 President, Economics Graduate Student Association, UNL

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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*Courses as main instructor:*

- ECON 211** – Principles of Macroeconomics (six courses)
  - Winner, Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award, College of Business Administration, UNL, 2016.
  - Award, Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student, UNL Department of Economics, 2016, 2017, 2018
- ECON 815** – Analytic Methods in Economics and Business (Graduate course), Fall 2018

*Course as TA:*

- ECON 212** – Principles of Microeconomics, S. Allgood, Spring 2015

## WORKING PAPERS

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### **Jobs and Gender: Placed-based Policies and Gender-specific Local Labor Demand**

Researchers and policy makers have studied the effectiveness and welfare consequences of regional development policies that focus on job creation, however they have largely ignored the role of gender in their analysis. Since gender segregation into industries and occupations exists, this can mean that policy designed to increase labor demand may disproportionately favor men or women depending on which industries are most affected. This research examines how gender-specific local labor demand shocks affect employment, rents, and wages in the United States using a spatial equilibrium model. The model implies that male employment shocks lead to larger increases in population, rents, and the gender wage gap due to gender segmented labor markets, increased labor force participation costs for women, and tied migration. Using the 1980-2000 US Census and 2010 ACS, I construct a sample of 722 time-consistent commuting zones to empirically test the predictions of the model. I find that positive male and female labor demand shocks differentially affect population, wages, housing values, and rental prices. This has important consequences for policy makers when considering programs designed around job creation to improve economic conditions.

### **Temporal and Spatial Effects of State and Local Taxes on Economic Growth** (with John E. Anderson)

In this paper we estimate the relationship between the economic growth of states and taxes, modeling both the effects of states own taxes on growth over time and the spatial spillover effects of taxes in neighboring states on their economic growth. Our research goes beyond the usual temporal tax-growth analysis in the literature to incorporate spatial spillovers. Using annual data for the states over the period 1999-2013, we analyze the effect of both differences and levels of state and local taxes on state gross state product (GSP) growth. Our analysis includes consideration of each of the major state tax revenue sources: income (both personal and corporate), property, and sales taxes. While some previous studies have found strong inverse relationships between state taxes and economic growth, our results indicate that the temporal tax-growth relationship is sensitive to model specification and the time period of analysis. We extend the model to include spatial spillover effects using a spatial Durbin model in order to determine how neighboring states taxes may affect a states economic growth. Our results indicate that negative spillover effects are present in some cases, which we analyze for policy implications.

### **An Examination of California’s Realignment Policy and Property Crime Rates**

This research investigates the impact of the passage of California’s Public Safety Realignment Act on property crime using a county-level panel data set. The Act went into effect in October of 2011, and redirects offenders from incarceration in state prison to the supervision of local jurisdiction. Many counties are claiming that the influx of prisoners to the local level is crowding jails and creating a revolving door effect for less serious criminals. The research finds that counties with jail capacities at or above 100% have a significant increase in property crime rates.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

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### **The Insurance Role of the Family: Long-run responses to unemployment shocks** (with Daniel Tannenbaum)

Well-documented costs of unemployment to individual include reduced future employment opportunities with lower wages and earnings losses that persist for decades. These effects are more severe for workers displaced during a recession, and for those in the lower tail of the income distribution. However, less is known about the evolution of *household* income, and the relative role of the family compared to government programs in recovering earnings losses. While unemployment affects individual earnings paths for decades, some of the losses may be recovered by a spouse or cohabiting partner and may reflect shifting specialization roles within the household for instance, men choosing to work less and spend more time caring for children, and women choosing to work more. A key question addressed in this research is to what extent modern or complex families are able to insure against income losses from unemployment. Using linked survey and administrative data, this paper examines employment, marriage and cohabiting patterns, labor force participation, and uptake of public assistance in response to a layoff at the household level. (US Census RDC Project)

### **Non-cognitive skills and labor outcomes: a field experiment** (with Luigi Butera, John List, and Daniel Tannenbaum)

Unemployment poses a tremendous cost for individuals and for society, and yet evidence is mixed on the success of job training programs for unemployed workers. Non-cognitive skills may be a silver lining, with recent work suggesting these skills are malleable at later ages and are comparable to cognitive skills in accounting for variation in long-run outcomes like employment. In this project we design a field experiment with a Chicago-based job training program to answer two questions: (1) Is it possible for unemployed adults to signal non-cognitive skills to firms using reference letters? (2) What non-cognitive skills do firms value, and is there evidence for task-skill complementarity? In the experiment, we randomize letters of reference accompanying job applications highlighting different skills, including non-cognitive skills (grit, punctuality, social skills) and cognitive skills (problem-solving). Our contribution is to study firm demand for non-cognitive skills and cognitive skills among low-education population with weak labor market ties, to test for direct evidence for skill-task complementarity, and to explore the value of intermediaries for screening low-education workers with high non-cognitive skills.

### **Internal Migration, Wages, and Employment**

Young, college educated individuals have the highest rates of migration within the United States. At the same time, overall migration rates have declined, with some studies pointing to labor immobility even when faced with unemployment or poor labor market prospects. The growth of labor market attachment of women also creates an increase in migration ties, which may deter migration. Since location decisions are generally made at the beginning of couples’ careers, this could potentially exacerbate the gender pay gap by creating a foundation where spouses willingly locate to an area with fewer opportunities in deference to a partner’s labor market prospects. Using linked survey and administrative data, the proposed research will provide a detailed analysis of internal migration and earnings evolution within the United States. The research plans to address the following questions: i) what are the differential returns to migrants versus non-migrants earnings and future employment?

ii) how does the choice of migration affect earnings paths for individuals as well as spouses, especially after an unemployment spell? and 3) do local marriage markets, political climate, and social norms affect migration propensities and/or earnings paths? (US Census RDC Project, proposal in progress)

**Privatization of Drinking Water in the United States: A Price and Quality Analysis**

In theory, privatization enhances efficiency and results in lower costs. Unfortunately, a market structure in water provision could exclude parts of society. Finding a balance between equitable water distribution and providing maintenance and infrastructure development is a challenge for municipalities. Using a matched dataset that includes information on water pricing and violation points accrued as a proxy for quality, I find that privatization is associated with an increase in prices faced by consumers but a decrease in quality violation points accrued.