

# JENNIFER BERNARD

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## EDUCATION

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

## RESEARCH FIELDS

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Labor and public economics (primary)  
Regional economics (secondary)

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND ACTIVITIES

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### Fellowships and Academic Programs

- AEA Summer Fellow, U.S. International Trade Commission, Office of Economics, 2019
- Center for Economic Studies Dissertation Mentorship Program, U.S. Census Bureau, 2019
- Amanda Heppner Fellowship, UNL, 2019-20
- McConnell Fellowship, UNL, 2018-19
- Graduate Student Travel Award, 2018
- Bingham Fellowship, UNL, 2017-19
- Othmer Fellowship, UNL, 2014-17

### Special Recognition

- McConnell Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award, UNL, 2019
- Excellence in Graduate Teaching, Department of Economics, UNL, 2016, 2017, 2018
- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award (sole awardee), College of Business, UNL, 2016
- Winner, Charles McCall Award for Best Undergraduate Paper (CSU Social Science Research Conference)
- Wells Fargo Award for Excellence in Economics (CSU-Fresno), 2014
- Resolution commending service, Assembly Member Patterson, District 23, California State Assembly, 2013

## WORKING PAPERS

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“Jobs and Gender: Employment Policies and Gender-specific Local Labor Demand” (Job Market Paper)

Although researchers and policy makers have studied the effectiveness and welfare consequences of regional development policies that focus on job creation, they have largely ignored the role of gender in their analysis. Transportation and infrastructure investments have long been touted by policy makers as an opportunity to create millions of well-paying jobs, however these policies may disproportionately favor men or women depending on the degree of industrial segregation between genders. This research examines how gender-specific changes in local labor demand affect employment, rents, and wages in the United States. Using the 1980-2000 US Census and 2010 and 2017 ACS, I construct a sample of 722 time-consistent commuting zones and find that positive male and female changes in labor demand differentially affect outcomes. Migratory responses are greater for men, which contributes to higher population growth rates and increases in local area housing rents. Women respond to an increase in labor demand by entering the labor market, rather than through migratory effects. 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)

We estimate the relationship between the economic growth of states and taxes, modeling both the effects of states own taxes 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 data over the period 1999-2013, we analyze the effect of both differences and levels of state and local taxes on 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.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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“The Insurance Role of the Family: Long-run responses to unemployment shocks” (with Daniel Tannenbaum, US Census Bureau Research Data Center Project)

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

## PRELIMINARY WORK IN PROGRESS

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“Internal Migration, Wages, and Employment” (US Census Bureau Research Data Center Project)

“Incorporating Labor Adjustment Costs into Computable General Equilibrium Models” (with Marinos Tsigas)

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

“An Examination of California’s Realignment Policy and Property Crime Rates”

## PRESENTATIONS

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

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

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| U.S. International Trade Commission, Office of Economics   | 2019    |
| · “ <a href="#">The Mysterious Divergence in China’s Productivity and Innovation Patterns</a> ”, 2019, Executive Briefings on Trade with Alexander B. Hammer |         |
| Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Daniel Tannenbaum   | 2016-18 |
| Bureau of Business Research, Research Assistant, Dr. Eric Thompson   | 2014-16 |
| · “ <a href="#">Survey of Omaha Businesses about Skill and Training Requirements</a> ” 2016, Report for the Nebraska Department of Labor                     |         |
| Research Assistant, Office of Institutional Effectiveness, CSU-Fresno  | 2013-14 |
| · “ <a href="#">Graduation Rates and the Achievement Gap – An Institutional Comparison Based on IPEDS Data</a> ”, 2013, OIE Brief with Dmitri Rogulkin       |         |
| · “ <a href="#">Graduating Student Survey</a> ,” 2014, OIE Brief   |         |
| · “ <a href="#">Brand New Bulldogs: Where are they from?</a> ” 2014, OIE Brief   |         |
| Maddy Institute Legislative Intern, Assembly District 23, Fresno, CA   | 2013    |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| Analytic Methods in Economics and Business       | Fall 2018 |
| · Graduate-level course, full responsibility     |           |
| Principles of Macroeconomics                     | 2015-18   |
| · Six courses, full responsibility               |           |
| · Sections ranged in size from 20-95 students    |           |
| Principles of Microeconomics, Teaching Assistant | 2015      |

## SERVICE

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|---|---------|
| Graduate Student Representative, Search Committee, UNL          | 2016-18 |
| Graduate Committee Representative, Department of Economics, UNL | 2017-18 |
| President, Economics Graduate Student Association, UNL          | 2015-16 |

## MISCELLANEOUS

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Special Sworn Status, U.S. Census Bureau  
U.S. Army, Licensed Vocational Nurse (91B-M6)

## REFERENCES

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## ABSTRACTS FOR ADVANCED 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.

“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.