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Education:

Ph.D. and A.M., Department of Economics, Harvard University, August 2009-May 2015
B.A., with high honors in Economics, University of California, Berkeley, August 2005-December 2008
B.S., with high honors in Business Administration, Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley, August 2005-December 2008

Academic affiliations:

01/2013-present Scientific employee, Department of Epidemiology Research, Statens Serum Institut, Copenhagen, Denmark

Honors and awards:

2013-2015 NBER Pre-Doctoral Fellowship on the Economics of an Aging Workforce
2012, 2013, 2014, Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (for “excellence in teaching” and “a special contribution to the teaching of undergraduates in Harvard College”)
and 2015
2014 Danielian Award for Excellence in International Economics
2009-2015 Harvard University Graduate Student Fellowship
2009 U.C. Berkeley Campus Spot Award (“exemplary performance in demonstrating the values that are important at U.C. Berkeley” for work w/ John Friedman and Raj Chetty)
2008 Phi Beta Kappa

Research grants

2013-2014 Helsefonden (\$70,300) for projects on disability insurance in Denmark

Research Papers:

“How do Disability Insurance Beneficiaries Respond to Cash-on-Hand? New Evidence and Policy Implications,” November 2014.

This paper presents new evidence on the costs and benefits of disability insurance (DI). I start by estimating the effect of unconditional transfers on the labor force participation of DI beneficiaries in Denmark. I show that a large fraction of the impact of DI benefits on labor supply can be attributed to non-distortionary income effects (i.e., making it feasible for disabled workers to “afford” not to work) rather than distortionary price effects (i.e., reducing effective wages). I then show evidence that DI beneficiaries respond very differently to cash-on-hand than do non-disabled populations. In particular, the probability of an emergency room visit increases for DI beneficiaries, but not other groups, when monthly income is received, and this response to payments is present even in the years before they were granted DI benefits. This “excess sensitivity” creates fiscal externalities and may be caused by behavioral biases. These results imply that standard approaches to welfare analysis may need to be modified to study DI and that optimal policy may involve setting the frequency at which payments are dispersed in addition to benefit levels.

“The effect of SNAP benefits on household expenditures and consumption: New evidence from scanner data and the November 2013 benefit cuts,” July 2014.

In November 2013, all SNAP benefits were reduced for the first time in the program’s history when temporary increases in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act expired. I quantify the impact of these cuts using scanner data from 400 grocery stores and the purchases of over 2.5 million households

enrolled in SNAP. I estimate that each \$1 of cuts reduced grocery store spending by \$0.37. Importantly, the implied marginal propensity to consume food out of food stamps is more precisely estimated than in previous studies, at 0.3 with a 95% confidence interval of [0.154, 0.456]. The revenue impact for the U.S. grocery retailing industry is estimated to be a decline of 0.3% overall. In contrast, I project that the aggregate impact of the 2014 Farm Bill will be an order of magnitude lower.

“Payday as a Zeitgeber for Consumption, Crime, and Adverse Health Outcomes,” May 2015.

This paper studies an institutional setting where 80% of the population receives income on the same day of every month. I document that ER visits, consumption of hard alcohol, crime, traffic accidents, and deaths all increase nationwide in Denmark when this large fraction of the population receives income. These findings run counter to standard models of how households make consumption decisions and shed new light on potential explanations.

Teaching material:

Raj Chetty and Gregory A. Bruich. *Graduate Public Economics Lectures*. December 2009, updated in December 2010 and December 2012. Available at <http://scholar.harvard.edu/bruch>

Research Papers in Progress:

“The causal effect of pay frequency on adverse health outcomes” (w/ Nete Munk Nielsen, Jacob Simonsen, and Jan Wohlfahrt)

“Transfer programs, marginal tax rates, and the labor supply of second-earners”

Teaching Fellowships at Harvard College:

Spring 2012-2015	Public economics with Professors Martin S. Feldstein, Raj Chetty, Mihir Desai
Fall 2012	Econometrics with Professor Rainer Winkelmann
Fall 2011	Econometrics with Professor James H. Stock

Research Assistant Positions:

03/2007-01/2013	Research assistant for Professor Raj Chetty
11/2007-07/2009	Research assistant for Professor John N. Friedman
01/2007-05/2007	Research assistant for Professor Ulrike Malmendier