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## HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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### **Undergraduate Studies:**

BA Economics Stanford University with Honors and Distinction, 2010

### **Graduate Studies:**

Harvard University, 2011 to present 2016  
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics  
Thesis Title: "Labor and Public Studies"  
Expected Completion Date: May 2017

### **References:**

Professor Lawrence Katz  
Harvard University  
617-495-5148, lkatz@harvard.edu

Professor Raj Chetty  
Stanford University  
650-646-5527, chetty@stanford.edu

Professor Nathan Hendren  
Harvard University  
617-496-3588, nhendren@fas.harvard.edu

Professor David Cutler  
Harvard University  
617-496-5216, dcutler@harvard.edu

### **Teaching and Research Fields:**

Primary fields: Labor, Health  
Secondary fields: Public

### **Teaching Experience:**

Fall 2013 Introduction to Econometrics, Harvard University  
Teaching Fellow for Professor Eric Chaney  
Spring 2014 Introduction to Econometrics, Harvard University  
Teaching Fellow for Professor Jeffrey Zabel  
Fall 2014 Introduction to Econometrics, Harvard University  
Head Teaching Fellow for Professor James Stock  
Spring 2015 Education in the Economy, Harvard University,  
Teaching Fellow for Professors Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz

### **Research Experience and Other Employment:**

Summer 2009 Stanford University, Research Assistant for Professor Luigi Pistaferri

July 2010-July 2011 Harvard University, Research Assistant for Professors Raj Chetty and John Friedman

### **Professional Activities**

October 2014 Zeuthen Workshop, Copenhagen: The Life Cycle Model of Individual Choices  
Presented: “Do Employer Pension Contributions Reflect Employee Preferences? Evidence from a Retirement Savings Reform in Denmark?”

### **Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:**

July 2015-May 2016 NBER Aging and Health Fellowship  
July 2016-May 2017 NBER Aging and Health Fellowship

### **Publications:**

Fadlon, Itzik, Jessica Laird, and Torben Nielsen. 2016. “Do Employer Pension Contributions Reflect Employee Preferences? Evidence from a Retirement Savings Reform in Denmark.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 8(3):196-216.

This paper studies how firms set contributions to employer provided 401(k)-type pension plans. Using a reform that decreased the subsidy to contributions to capital pension accounts for Danish workers in the top income tax bracket, we provide strong evidence that employers' contributions are based on their employees' savings preferences. We find an immediate decrease in employer contributions to capital accounts, whose magnitude increased in the share of employees directly affected by the reform. This response was large relative to average employee responses within private IRA-type plans and was accompanied by a similar magnitude shift of employer contributions to annuity accounts.

### **Research Papers:**

“The Effects of Physician Prescribing Behaviors on Prescription Drug Use and Labor Supply: Evidence from Movers in Denmark” joint with Torben Nielsen. ([Job Market Paper](#))

Health is an increasingly critical determinant of labor supply as the population ages and as a growing fraction of labor force participants develop chronic conditions. Prescription drugs to control pain and mental health disorders have the potential to raise labor supply, but abuse of and addiction to some drugs (such as opioids) could work in the opposite direction. Thus, physician prescribing tendencies could impact patients' ability to work. In this paper, we estimate the impacts of physicians with differential prescribing behaviors on patient prescription drug use and labor market outcomes for the four classes of prescription drugs used most frequently to treat musculoskeletal and mental health disorders: opioids, anti-inflammatories, anti-anxiety drugs, and anti-depressants. We use Danish administrative data on the full population of the 1925 to 1980 birth cohorts and link information on individual's prescription drug use, their primary care physicians, municipality of residence, and labor market outcomes from 1995 to 2013. We exploit quasi-random separations of individuals from their physicians associated with geographic moves across municipalities to estimate the causal impact of physician prescribing rates on individual prescription drug use and labor market outcomes. We find that having a general practitioner who has a 10 percentage point higher opioid prescription rate leads to a 4.5 percentage point increase in the probability an individual uses prescribed opioids, as well as a (significant) 1.2 percentile decrease in their labor income rank and a 1.5 percentage point decrease in their labor force participation. Changes in physician prescribing rates lead to similar changes in prescription drug use for the other classes of prescription drugs, but they are not associated with any discernible effect on labor market outcomes.

### **Research Papers in Progress**

“Danish Geographical Variation in Prescription Drug Use,” joint with Torben Nielsen.

“The Effect of Divorce on Children's Short and Long Run Outcomes,” joint with Torben Nielsen.