

Austin Knies

Economics Ph.D. Candidate

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economics
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Economics 2018 - 2024
Indiana University, *Bloomington, IN, USA* (Graduation: May 2024)
Dissertation Committee:
Emerson Melo, Kosali Simon, Volodymyr Lugovskyy, Seth Freedman, Stefan Weiergraeber

Master of Arts, Economics 2018 - 2020
Indiana University, *Bloomington, IN, USA*

Bachelor of Science, Mathematics and Business Economics, Honors Scholar 2013 - 2017
Louisiana Tech University, *Ruston, LA, USA*

EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Angela Campbell, School of Public Health June 2023 - Present
Indiana University

Research Assistant for Jia Xiang, Kelley School of Business January 2024 - Present
Indiana University

Associate Instructor, ECON-B 251 (Fundamentals of Economics for Business I) Spring 2022
Indiana University

Associate Instructor, ECON-E 251 (Fundamentals of Economics I) Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021
Indiana University

Associate Instructor, ECON-E 201 (Intro to Microeconomics) Fall 2019, Spring 2020
Indiana University

Tutor, ECON 510 (Managerial Economics) Spring 2017
Louisiana Tech University

RESEARCH

Research Interests: Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Information Frictions

Coding Languages: R, Stata, Python, MATLAB, Fortran

Publications:

“Healthcare Visit Modality Among Older Adults: Telehealth and Subsequent Emergency Department Use”
Forthcoming at Telemedicine Reports Accepted March 2024
Co-authors: Kosali Simon, Emily Hayden

“A Recursive Logit Model with Choice Aversion and Its Application to Transportation Networks.” 2022
Transportation Research Part B: Methodological, Volume 155, January 2022, Pages 47-71
Co-authors: Jorge Lorca, Emerson Melo

Ongoing Research:

Job Market Paper: “Health Outcomes, Information Costs, and the Rise of Telehealth during the COVID-19 Pandemic”
Latest Draft: April 2024

Abstract: How has the increase in synchronous telemedicine services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic impacted patient health outcomes? Using 2018-2022q1 claims data from Optum's de-identified Clinformatics® Data Mart Database, I examine differences in telehealth and face-to-face care for office and outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) service claims, where telehealth coding has been the most frequent. Telehealth usage is associated with higher likelihood of patient mortality and ER visit within 6 months of E/M service claim, where I find an average effect of 5 additional deaths and 13 additional ER visits per 1,000 patients in the post-March 2020 period. To explain observed differences in health outcomes across visit modalities, I model the physician-patient interaction as a costly information acquisition problem, where rationally inattentive physicians learn about the patient's health status through costly signals. Estimated increases in information costs with telehealth usage range between 5 to 29 percent on average after March 2020. These findings quantify the consequences of using telehealth as a substitute for in-person care.

"Refining the Analysis of Medicare Plan Choices and Utilization: A Disaggregated Approach"

Working Paper

Latest Draft: February 2024

Co-authors: Michael DeDad, Volodymyr Lugovskyy, Alexandre Skiba

"Effects of Public Price Transparency Tools on Shopping for Health Care"

Working Paper

Latest Draft: September 2023

Funding:

Research Data Funding, IU Social Science Research Commons. "Social and Neighborhood Determinants of Healthcare: Medical Appointments No-Show Rates in Urban and Rural Indiana." \$4800. PI: Patrick Shih. Co-PI: Volodymyr Lugovskyy, Austin Knies

Hayek Fund, Institute for Humane Studies. "Heterogeneous Information Processing and Health Insurance Choice." \$2500. PI: Volodymyr Lugovskyy. Co-PI: Michael DeDad, Austin Knies, Emerson Melo, Alexandre Skiba

Hayek Fund, Institute for Humane Studies. "Effects of Public Price Transparency Tools on Shopping for Health Care." \$750. PI: Austin Knies

Presentations:

13th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) [Accepted] 2024

Southern Economic Association, 93rd Annual Meeting. 2023

12th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon). 2023

Midwest Economics Association, 87th Annual Meetings. 2023

Eastern Economic Association, 49th Annual Conference. 2023

Hoosier Economics Conference at Indiana University. 2021

Posters:

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), 2023 Fall Research Conference 2023

6th Annual Conference on Network Science and Economics. (Virtual) 2021

Additional Projects:

"Fraud Detection with Medicare Provider Data" 2022

Erdős Institute's Fall 2022 Code Data Science Boot Camp

Collaborators: Jonathan Leslie

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Research Fellowship recipient, *IU College of Arts and Sciences* 2022 - 2023

Adam Smith Fellowship recipient, *Mercatus Center* 2021 - 2022

Complex Networks and Systems National Science Foundation Research Traineeship Program Summer Affiliate, *IU Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering* 2021

Nominated Student Representative, *IU College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Awards* 2021

Best Graduate Paper Award recipient, *Hoosier Economics Conference (Indiana University)* 2021

Best Third Year Presentation Award recipient, *Hoosier Economics Conference (Indiana University)* 2021

W. Phillip Saunders Award for Outstanding Introductory Economics Associate Instructor recipient, *Department of Economics, Indiana University* 2021

Hayek Fund for Scholars Research Stipend recipient, <i>Institute for Humane Studies</i>	2021
Don Lavoie Fellowship recipient, <i>Mercatus Center</i>	2020 - 2021
College Graduate Fellowship recipient, <i>Indiana University</i>	2018 - 2019