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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics Goethe University Frankfurt - GSEFM Frankfurt, DE <i>Leibniz Institute for Financial Research SAFE fellowship recipient</i>	9/2019 - Present
M.Sc. in Economics University of Freiburg Freiburg, DE <i>Karl Brandt Award for Best Thesis in Economics</i>	10/2016 - 5/2019
B.A. in Economics Western Washington University Bellingham, WA (USA)	9/2005 - 6/2010

RESEARCH FIELDS

Causal inference, industrial organization, labor economics

ONGOING PROJECTS

2023: Minimum Wage Pass-through to Wholesale and Retail Prices: Evidence from Cannabis Scanner Data. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2303.10367>.

A growing empirical literature finds that firms pass the cost of minimum wage hikes onto consumers via higher retail prices. Yet, little is known about minimum wage effects on wholesale prices and whether retailers face a wholesale cost shock in addition to the labor cost shock. I exploit the unique market structure of Washington state's legal recreational cannabis industry to investigate minimum wage pass-through to wholesale and retail prices. In a dynamic difference-in-differences framework, I utilize scanner data on \$6 billion of transactions across the supply chain and leverage geographic variation in firms' minimum wage exposure across six minimum wage hikes between 2018 and 2021. When ignoring wholesale cost effects, I find retail pass-through elasticities consistent with existing literature—yet retail pass-through elasticities more than double once wholesale cost effects are accounted for. Retail markups do not adjust to the wholesale cost shock, indicating a full pass-through of the wholesale cost shock to retail prices. The results suggest that previous research may underestimate the impact of minimum wage increases on retail prices. This paper highlights the importance of analyzing the entire supply chain when evaluating the product market effects of minimum wage hikes.

2023: The Effects of Crime on Prices, Markups, and Consumption: Evidence from Matched Scanner Data. (with J. Kasinger)

The social welfare effects of crime are often discussed in terms of a “hidden tax” that drives a wedge between the price producers receive and the price consumers pay for goods and services (e.g. via monitoring costs, security costs, replacement of damaged or stolen goods, and reduced consumption). Yet, despite a longstanding interest among economists, quantifying the tax and the resulting welfare effects has proved elusive. We leverage a novel administrative dataset from the Washington state cannabis industry that matches detailed information on store-level armed robberies to scanner data from the universe of transactions for cannabis retailers. Using a staggered difference-in-differences approach, we find that armed robberies cause a permanent 1.5% increase in retail prices, indicating that retailers pass the costs of crime on to consumers. Robbed stores experience a 5% reduction in consumption in the month after a robbery, but consumption recovers to pre-robbery levels within two months. Leveraging information on the universe of upstream transactions, we calculate an implied unit tax from crime of \$0.06 per gram on cannabis products, which is relatively small given the average unit price of \$7 per gram. Finally, we follow Fabinger and Weyl (2013), who show that in the presence of market power, the pass-through rate is a sufficient statistic for deriving the welfare effects of a unit tax.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

Leibniz Institute for Financial Research SAFE (Fellowship, 12,000 EUR)	2019-2020
Karl Brandt Prize (Award, 2,500 EUR)	2019

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant Chair of Applied Statistics and Econometrics Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz Mainz, DE	10/2020 - Present
Graduate Student Research Assistant Wilfried Guth Endowed Chair for Constitutional Political Economy and Competition Policy University of Freiburg Freiburg, DE	10/2017 - 9/2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz Supervision of bachelor’s and master’s theses; Wissenschaftliches Arbeiten (B.Sc. course taught in German language)	10/2020 - Present
Teaching Assistant University of Freiburg Advanced Macroeconomics 1 (M.Sc. course)	10/2017 - 3/2018

SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

2023: European Association of Labor Economists (EALE), Prague; Bonn-Frankfurt-Mannheim PhD Conference, Frankfurt; Marketing Seminar Series, Goethe University Frankfurt; Management and Microeconomics Brown Bag seminar, Goethe University Frankfurt

DATA ANALYTICS SKILLS

Programming Languages Python (pandas, NumPy, selenium, BeautifulSoup), r, Stata

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Thorsten Schank, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
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