



Joel F.S. McMurry

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Education

<i>University of Wisconsin-Madison</i> , Ph.D. Economics	In Progress
<i>University of Wisconsin-Madison</i> , M.S. Economics	2016
<i>University of Chicago</i> , A.B. Philosophy, Economics	2011

Current and Previous Positions

<i>University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Economics</i>	
Research Assistant for Naoki Aizawa	2018 - 2020
Research Assistant, Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy	2017 - 2018
Teaching Assistant	2015 - 2016
<i>Analysis Group Inc.</i>	
Senior Analyst (Chicago, IL)	2011 - 2013

Research Interests

Labor economics, public economics, applied microeconomics, structural econometrics

References

Matthew Wiswall
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Christopher Taber
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Ananth Seshadri
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Naoki Aizawa
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Job Market Paper - “Child Care Policy and Informal Care”

Early child care experiences vary widely across the distribution of socio-economic status (SES), and sizeable skill gaps open up before children enter publicly-provided schooling. SES gradients in the quality of informal, relative-provided, care are particularly large. To understand how variation in the availability and quality of informal care contributes to skill inequality, I estimate a model of child care, mother labor supply, and child skill development, allowing for unequal access to informal care. I exploit the timing of grandmother deaths relative to a child’s birth to identify substitution patterns between informal, formal, and mother-provided child care. I quantify the effect of having access to informal care on child development and mother labor supply, and I estimate that, for a substantial fraction of less-advantaged children, the availability of informal care is detrimental to skill development. I ex ante analyze the effects of policies such as universal public daycare, subsidies for formal care, and cash transfers, and show that accounting

for heterogeneity in the availability and quality of informal care is quantitatively important for estimating the effect that such policies might have on skill inequality at the point of entry into K-12 schooling.

Peer-Reviewed Published and Forthcoming Articles

“Making Summer Matter: The Impact of Youth Employment on Academic Performance” (with Amy Ellen Schwartz, Jacob Leos-Urbel, and Matthew Wiswall), *Quantitative Economics*, 12(2), May 2021.

Working Papers

“Inequality Early Care Experienced by U.S. Children” (with Sarah Flood, Aaron Sojourner, and Matthew Wiswall), NBER Working Paper 29249.

“Skills, Savings, and the Family”

“Human Capital and College Prospects”

“Intrafamily Insurance, Portfolio Choice, and Intergenerational Wealth Inequality” (with Eirik Brandsås)

Work in Progress

“On the Production of Child Health” (with Naoki Aizawa and Matthew Wiswall)

“Family Resources, Risk-Taking, and a Fuller View of the Portfolio” (with Annika Bacher and Eirik Brandsås)

Teaching

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Teaching Assistant, Analytical Public Finance Fall 2016

Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory Spring 2016

Principles of Macroeconomics Fall 2015

Honors and Awards

Mary Sue and Mike Shannon Dissertation Fellowship (UW-Madison Dept of Economics) 2021

Caves Dissertation Fellowship (UW-Madison Dept of Economics) 2021

Juli Plant Grainger Institute Summer Fellowship (UW-Madison Dept of Economics) 2018, 2019

“Distinguished Teaching Assistant” (Highest Category) Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016

Conference Presentations

2021: Annual Meeting of the Society of the Economics of the Household (Boston University, virtual), North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society (Université du Québec à Montréal, virtual)

2018: Midwest Macro (UW-Madison)

Computer Skills

R, Julia, Stata, Matlab, SAS, L^AT_EX