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OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

University of Chicago, Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics
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EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Ph.D. Economics	2020–Present
University of British Columbia, M.A. Economics	2018–2019
University of British Columbia, B.Com. Finance, Economics Minor	2014–2018

REFERENCES

Professor James Heckman (Chair) University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics jheckman@uchicago.edu (773) 702-0300	Professor Kevin Thom University of Iowa Tippie College of Business Department of Economics kethom@uiowa.edu
Professor Joseph Hotz University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy hotz@uchicago.edu	

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Primary:	Genoeconomics, Labor Economics
Secondary:	Public Economics, Health Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

Genetic Influences on Human Capital Development

Abstract: This paper leverages recent increases in the availability of genetic data to better understand how genetics interact with parental investment and the environment in the development of human capital. Using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health), we implement a within-family design that exploits random genetic variation across siblings to investigate how differences in genetic predisposition for educational attainment causally influence years of schooling, college attendance, and early career earnings, and how the causal effects are mediated through parental investment and the environment. A one-standard-deviation increase in a child's polygenic score

increases completed years of schooling by approximately 0.55 years in the full population, but only 0.18 years within families, increases four-year college completion by 1.2 percentage points within families, and increases present-discounted lifetime earnings by approximately 3.1 percent. The within-family attenuation is indicative of how the direct causal effect of genetic variation can be masked by gene-environment correlations; additionally, I find reduced-form evidence that the true causal effect is itself amplified by parental responses. To deepen our mechanistic understanding and tease out policy implications, I model parental investment as an optimal resource allocation problem accounting for initial conditions, and jointly estimate the dynamic structural model using the Simulated Method of Moments. Finally, I use the structural parameter estimates to evaluate the counterfactual welfare effects of different policy interventions.

WORKING PAPERS

Inequality in India Declined during COVID (with Arpit Gupta, Anup Malani, and Bartosz Woda)

Abstract: We use a large, representative panel data set from India with monthly data on household finances to examine the incidence of economic harms during the COVID pandemic. We observe a sharp spike in poverty and inequality, especially in urban areas, during India's sharp but short lockdown. However, there was a striking decrease in income and consumption inequality after the lockdown. The declines were driven by an increase in social mobility more than a reduction in the Gini coefficient. Evidence supports two mechanisms for the decline in income inequality. In rural areas, the capital income of top-quartile earners covaries more with aggregate income. In urban areas, demand for labor fell more for higher income earners, due in part to their occupational specialization in services. We contrast India's COVID experience with its experience during demonetization and the US experience with COVID.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Entry Age Effects: A Structural Model (with Kevin Thom, Titus Galama, Hans van Kippersluis, Stephanie von Hinke, and Pietro Biroli)

Informal Credit Mitigated the Impact of Demonetization (with Arpit Gupta and Anup Malani)

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND GRANTS

University of Chicago Social Sciences Division Fellowship	2020–2026
University of British Columbia Faculty of Arts Graduate Fellowship	2018–2019
Ricardo Essay Prize “On the Application of Liberty as an Instrument of Utility”	2017
Canadian Council of Financial Analysts Prize	2017
University of British Columbia Chancellor’s Scholar Award	2015–2018
Trek Excellence Scholarship	2015–2018
Hari Vashney Scholarship	2016
William F.J. Wood Prize	2016
Naomi Grigg Scholarship	2015
John Young Memorial Prize	2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Elements of Economic Analysis I (Undergraduate)	College Lecturer	<i>Autumn 2023</i>
Introduction to Economics, Microeconomics I, and Macroeconomics I (Undergraduate)	College Lecturer	<i>Winter 2020, Spring 2020</i>
Human Capital, Markets, and the Family (Graduate)	TA for Prof. Heckman	<i>Winter 2023</i>
Elements of Economic Analysis I (Undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Lima	<i>Summer 2022</i>
Honors Elements of Economic Analysis I (Undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Lima	<i>Spring 2022</i>
Microeconomics (MBA)	TA for Prof. Hornbeck	<i>Autumn 2021, Autumn 2022</i>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Research Assistant for Prof. Anup Malani, University of Chicago	<i>2022–2023</i>
Undergraduate Economics Lecturer, Columbia College Vancouver	<i>2020</i>
Research Assistant for Prof. Lorenzo Garlappi, University of British Columbia	<i>2018</i>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Conferences	<i>Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory Conference: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2026</i>
Presentations	<i>Center for Economics of Human Development Intergenerational Seminar Series, Public/Labor Lunch</i>
Refereeing Activity	<i>Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics</i>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship	Canada
Programming Skills	R, Python, Stata, C++, Java
Languages	English (Native), Spanish, French