

Jesse Melvin
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Education

University of Delaware

PhD, Economics 2018 (expected)

Dissertation: "Border Security as a Labor Screening Device: A New Model of Immigration Economics."

Major Advisor: Professor Michael Arnold

MA, Economics 2013

BA, Economics and History 2011

Fields of Interest

Teaching: Microeconomics, Environmental Economics, Labor Economics, Industrial Organization

Research: Labor Economics, Energy Economics, Applied Econometrics

Research

"Border Security as a Labor Screening Device: A New Model of Immigration Economics."

Abstract: This paper presents a new model of immigration that describes the migration-decision process on an individual level. The model examines the positive relationship between a nation's immigration control policy and the productivity of the migrants entering that nation. The logic is straightforward: the personal cost of migrating into a nation rises as that nation's border security becomes stricter and more strongly enforced, which deters individuals who are less motivated and/or capable to migrate. Using data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), I present empirical evidence by using the implementation of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 as a natural experiment. Regression results reveal that migrants who entered the nation after 2002 have a wage rate that is approximately 3.0 – 4.5% higher relative to their counterparts, and work 0.6 – 1.0 additional hours per week, *ceteris paribus*.

"The Split Incentives Energy Efficiency Problem: Evidence of Underinvestment by Landlords."

- Accepted by *Energy Policy*

Abstract: Due to asymmetric information between landlords and renters, landlords with tenants who pay the utility bill underinvest in energy efficiency measures. Using data from the 2009 Residential Energy Consumption Survey, I present empirical evidence that this underinvestment occurs in multiple categories of residential energy efficiency: space-heating, water-heating, window thickness, insulation, and weatherization. Because these landlords did not invest at the same rate as homeowners and landlords who pay the energy bill, their tenants' energy bill was higher by nearly 2%. When combined with other researchers' estimations for appliances (Davis 2010), insulation, and thermostat responsiveness for tenants (Gillingham, Rapson, Harding 2012), the landlord-tenant split incentive caused renters to use approximately 2.7% more energy overall.

University of Delaware / Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas - *Statistical Teaching and Analytics Research Training*, Mexico City – 2017

University of Delaware Department of Economics - *MA Scholar Award* – 2013

Statistical Software Skills

STATA, Eviews, SPSS, Data Analysis Package (Excel), SAS

References

Michael Arnold
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Professional Website

<https://sites.google.com/a/udel.edu/jesse-d-melvin/>

Selected Course Evaluations from Spring 2017

“Great class. Information presented was all super clear, powerpoint presentations were awesome. He asked questions before class to review topics, and it was SO helpful. All of the assignments were also really helpful. In a lot of classes homework feels like busy work and doesn't seem beneficial, but all his assignments were great and made you really learn the material. He's super funny and just an overall great professor who really cares about his students.”

“Incredible professor and very interesting guy. Made lectures very engaging and enjoyable tying life stories and real world applications to the material.”

“The flashback stories helped understanding the material a lot.”

“Very interesting policy about attendance. Good professor for sure.”

“One of the best/coolest professors I've had. Would 10/10 recommend this professor over any other.”