

OLENA BERCHUK

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EDUCATION

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| University of Delaware Ph.D. in Economics Dissertation: <i>Essays on Education Adjacent Policies and Academic Outcomes</i> Committee: <i>Adrienne Lucas (chair), Sabrin Beg, Desmond Toohey, Elizabeth Farley-Ripple</i> | 2024 |
| Temple University M.A., Economics | 2019 |
| Temple University B.A., Economics Minor, Spanish | 2018 |
| University of Oviedo, Spain Temple University Summer Study Abroad Program | 2017 |

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Development Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Military Conscription and Higher Educational Attainment in Ukraine (job market paper)

Compulsory military service via draft is prevalent in several countries, with some leniency offered for university students. In 1989, a change in the Ukrainian conscription law delayed the draft for university students until after they graduate. This provided young men in Ukraine with the opportunity to avoid the draft during times of political instability. I apply a regression discontinuity design to cohorts making university application decisions around two periods of instability (1990 and 2004). I find that the effect of deferral on higher educational attainment is large in magnitude, positive, and highly statistically significant. I connect these findings to the increase in university entrants in Ukraine in 2023 in response to the war with Russia.

Student Safety and Schooling Outcomes

School safety has received a lot of attention from parents and schools, particularly with the rise of gun violence. Understanding the mechanisms and the size of the effect of student safety on academic outcomes can be helpful in setting up effective policies for schools, both in the form of preventive and supportive measures. I use a new data set that stems from students' perceptions of safety and find large, negative impacts of feeling unsafe on student test scores when using student-level fixed effects. I also discuss instrumenting for safety via a school's distance from a school shooting.

Student Safety and Schooling Outcomes

Many school districts in the United States do not require a minimum recess time for elementary school students. With such few guidelines, some schools provide only two 30 minute sessions per week or often conflate gym time with recess time to maximize the number of instructional hours. Starting from the 2017-2018 school year, Florida passed a state-wide requirement that all schools provide at least 20 minutes of free play for students in grades K-5. Leveraging this new law, I apply a difference in difference design that compares schools in school districts that already had recess policies in place with those in school districts that were forced to provide it. I find a negative, albeit small, decrease in test scores and the percentage of students passing for schools suddenly required to offer daily recess and discuss the implications of this finding.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND HONORS

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| Economics Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Delaware | 2023, 2022 |
| Third Year Summer Research Stipend, University of Delaware | 2022 |
| Phi Beta Kappa Member | 2018 |
| Norman & Ruth Sun Writing Prize, Temple University | 2018 |
| Honors President's Scholarship, Temple University | 2015 - 2018 |

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Delaware | Fall 2024 - Present |
| Instructor of Record, University of Delaware | |
| Intermediate Microeconomic Theory | Winter 2023 |
| Introduction to Macroeconomics | Winter 2022 |
| Head Teaching Assistant, University of Delaware | |
| - Substitute lecturer for 270+ student class, managed and organized other TAs | |
| Introduction to Macroeconomics | Fall 2023, Spring 2023 |
| Introduction to Microeconomics | Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021 |
| Teaching Assistant, University of Delaware | |
| Introduction to Macroeconomics | Spring 2020 |
| Introduction to Microeconomics | Fall 2019 |
| Writing Tutor, Temple University | 2016 - 2018 |

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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|---|-------------|
| Research Assistant | Summer 2023 |
| Prof. Emily Battaglia, University of Delaware | |
| Research Assistant | 2020 - 2021 |
| Prof. Jeremy Tobacman, University of Delaware | |
| Research Assistant | Summer 2019 |
| Prof. Jim Berry, University of Delaware | |
| Graduate Data Analysis Intern | 2018 - 2019 |
| Career Center, Temple University | |
| Bureau of Labor Statistics Intern | 2018 |
| Temple University | |

TECHNICAL SKILLS

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| Software | Stata, SurveyCTO, Qualtrics XM, Latex, R, some Python |
| Spoken Languages | Fluent in Ukrainian, Russian, and English, conversational in Spanish |

OTHER

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| Compete and train in dog agility | 2021 - Present |
| Attend weekly HEMA longsword fighting classes | 2019 - Present |
| Conduct church choir and arranged weekly rehearsals | 2014 - Present |

REFERENCES

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Adrienne Lucas (main advisor) | Desmond Toohey |
| Professor and Economics Department Chair | Financial Economist |
| University of Delaware | US Securities and Exchange Commission |
| Email: alucas@udel.edu | Email: dtoohey@udel.edu |

Sabrin Beg
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Julianna Butler (teaching reference)
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