Leonard Goff

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Research Fields

Primary: Applied Econometrics, Labor Economics

Secondary: Environmental Economics, Public Finance

Education

Ph.D. Economics, 2021 (expected), Columbia University

M.A. Economics, 2012, University of British Columbia

M.Sc Physics, 2011, University of British Columbia

B.S. Physics and B.A. Philosophy, 2008, University of Maryland, College Park (summa cum laude)

Job Market Paper

"Treatment Effects in Bunching Designs: The Impact of the Federal Overtime Rule on Hours"

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) mandates overtime premium pay for most U.S. workers, yet a lack of clean variation in the rule has made it difficult to assess its impacts on the hours they work. I use bunching observed at 40 hours in an administrative dataset of weekly paychecks to estimate this effect. To do so, I develop a general framework in which bunching at a kink point is informative about reduced form causal effects, nesting existing approaches and abstracting them from underlying structural models. Under a non-parametric shape constraint on the distribution of hours and flexible assumptions on choice, a local average treatment effect among bunchers is partially identified. The bounds are informative in the overtime context and suggest that affected workers in the U.S. work an average of at least half an hour less as a result of the FLSA mandate, in weeks that they do work at least 40 hours. Overtime policy may thus have positive employment effects, though a scale effect could dominate.

Working Papers

"A Vector Monotonicity Assumption for Multiple Instruments" (September 2020)

When a researcher wishes to use multiple instrumental variables for a single binary treatment, the familiar LATE monotonicity assumption can become restrictive: it requires that all units share a common direction of response even when different instruments are shifted in opposing directions. What I call *vector monotonicity*, by contrast, simply restricts treatment status to be monotonic in each instrument separately. This is a natural assumption in many contexts, capturing the intuitive notion of "no defiers" for each instrument. I show that in a setting with a binary treatment and multiple discrete instruments, a class of causal parameters is point identified under vector monotonicity, including the average treatment effect among units that are responsive to any particular subset of the instruments. I propose a simple

"2SLS-like" estimator for the family of identified treatment effect parameters. An empirical application revisits the labor market returns to college education.

Work in Progress

"How Pure-Chance Matching Compares to a Labor Market: Norway's Shift away from Random Serial Dictatorship for Doctors Choosing First Jobs" with Ashna Arora and Jonas Hjort.

- Selected for *American Economic Association Papers & Proceedings*, 2021.

"Do Firms Fully Exploit Their Labor Market Power in Setting Wages? Evidence from Canada" with Matthew Mazewski

Publications

"Inequality of Subjective Well-Being as a Comprehensive Measure of Inequality" (with John Helliwell and Guy Mayraz). *Economic Inquiry*, Vol. 56, No. 4, pp. 2177-2194, October 2018.

"Does Forest Certification Stem Tropical Deforestation? Forest Stewardship Council Certification in Mexico" (with Allen Blackman and Marisol Rivera Planter). *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, Vol. 89, pp. 306-333, May 2018.

"Should We Treat Data as Labor? Moving Beyond 'Free' " (with Imanol Arrieta Ibarra, Diego Jiménez Hernández, Jaron Lanier and Glen Weyl). *American Economic Association Papers & Proceedings*, Vol. 108, pp. 38-42, May 2018.

Outside of economics:

"The Forest Conservation Targeting Tool: Accessible Spatial Prioritization for Latin America and the Dominican Republic"(with Allen Blackman, Jessica Chu, and Juha Siikamäki). *SoftwareX*, Vol. 10, July-December 2019.

"Classical Simulation of Measurement Based Quantum Computation on Higher Genus Surface Code States" (with Robert Raussendorf). *Physical Review A*, Vol. 86, 042301, October 2012.

"Correlation Between Particle Motion and Voronoi-Cell-Shape Fluctuations During the Compaction of Granular Matter" (with Stevie Slotterback, Masahiro Toiya, Jack F. Douglas, and Wolfgang Losert). *Physical Review Letters*, Vol. 101, 258001, December 2008.

Teaching and Employment

Teaching Fellow, Columbia University:

- Data methods (senior undergraduate, instructor Michael Best): 2019
- Second year Ph.D. micro-econometrics (instructors Joshua Angrist and Simon Lee): 2018
- Undergraduate econometrics (for Jushan Bai, Seyhan Erden and Miikka Rokkanen): 2016-2017
- First year Ph.D. econometrics (instructor Christoph Rothe): 2016
- CORE-Teagle Fellow: 2019

Intern, Microsoft Research, Cambridge, MA. Summer 2017

Research Assistant, Resources for the Future, Washington, DC. 2013-2015

Nonresident Research Intern, Brookings Institution, Washington, DC. 2014-2015

Funding and Fellowships

McMaster University Productivity Partnership Data Grant: $10,000 CAD, 2020

Columbia University Program for Economic Research Data Grant: $3,754 USD, 2020

Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University, 2019-2020

Columbia University Program for Economic Research Summer Fellow, 2019

The Dhrymes Econometrics Award, 2018

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship, 2010-2011

Banneker/Key full academic scholarship to University of Maryland, College Park, 2004-2008

Other Contributions

`rdbounds` function in Stata and R for manipulation-robust bounds in regression discontinuity designs: https://github.com/leonardgoff/rdbounds

Coding for SERVIR (NASA/USAID) Forest Conservation Targeting Tool: http://fctt.servirglobal.net

Referee service: Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Empirical Economics

Conference presentations: Young Economists Symposium (2019), Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference (2019), Joint Statistical Meetings (2015), Southern Economics Association (2014)

Personal

Citizenship: U.S. and Canada

Languages: English (native), Spanish (basic)

References

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