

E. ANNA WEBER

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2021 (expected)
Dissertation Title: *Essays in Labor Economics*
Dissertation Committee: Kevin Lang, Daniele Paserman, James Feigenbaum

M.A., Political Economy, Boston University, Boston, MA, 2018

B.S.F.S., International Economics (*Magna Cum Laude*), Georgetown University,
Washington, DC, 2012

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Public Economics

WORKING PAPERS

“The Big House Far From Home: Spatial Distance and Criminal Recidivism,” October 2020.
Job Market Paper.

“Who Married, (to) Whom, and Where? Trends in Marriage in the United States 1850-1940”
(with Claudia Olivetti, Daniele Paserman, and Laura Salisbury), September 2020.

“Rural Prisons as Place-Based Policies,” October 2020.

“Weak-Instrument Robust Inference for Two Sample Instrumental Variables Regression: A
Comment” (with Claudia Olivetti and Daniele Paserman), March 2020.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Gender Bonus Gap: Evidence from Young American Workers”
“Gender Composition and Voting Strategies in U.S. City Councils” (with Jesse Bruhn and
Thea How-Choon)

PRESENTATIONS

Society of Economics of the Household (2019)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Summer Research Grant, Boston University, Department of Economics, 2018
Best Second Year Paper Award, Boston University, Department of Economics, 2017
Dean’s Fellowship, Boston University, 2015

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Claudia Olivetti and Daniele Paserman, Boston University and NBER,
Summer 2017 - Spring 2020

Senior Analyst, Cornerstone Research, Washington, DC, 2014-2015
Analyst, Cornerstone Research, Washington, DC, 2012-2014

REFeree EXPERIENCE

Review of Economics of the Household

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Gender and Economics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2020
Teaching Fellow, Gender and Economics, Department of Economics, Boston University,
Fall 2019

Teaching Fellow, Introductory Microeconomic Analysis, Department of Economics, Boston
University, Fall 2016 and Spring 2017

Teaching Assistant, International Finance, Department of Economics, Georgetown
University, Fall 2010, Fall 2011, and Spring 2012

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Organizer, BU Labor Reading Group, Fall 2017-Spring 2019

COMPUTER SKILLS: Stata, R, SAS, LaTeX

CITIZENSHIP: USA

REFERENCES

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The Big House far from Home: Spatial Distance and Criminal Recidivism (Job Market Paper)

Using data from the National Corrections Reporting Program, I estimate the causal effect of offenders' distance from home during incarceration on recidivism. To overcome the absence of data covering inmates' facility assignments and the potential endogeneity of facility assignment to recidivism propensity, I employ a novel two-sample instrumental variables strategy. I instrument for an inmate's distance from home with the average or minimum distance to state facilities from their home county, and combine the NCRP with cross-sectional data from Florida and Oklahoma containing inmate facility assignments for the current inmate population. My results suggest that doubling an inmate's distance from home decreases the probability of reincarceration in the same state within one year by 3 percentage points. Finally, I consider alternative outcomes and heterogeneous treatment effects to shed light on potential mechanisms. My results suggest that the deterioration of social ties, the breaking of criminal ties, and deterrence all contribute to a relationship between distance and later recidivism.

Rural Prisons as Place-Based Policies

I employ a generalized difference-in-difference strategy to provide causal evidence of the efficacy of prisons as place-based policies promoting rural employment in the United States from 1980-2015. The dominant employment effect of a prison opening or closure is a one-for-one gain or loss in public sector jobs. In the private sector, particularly large prisons opened in the 1990s may have crowded out manufacturing employment when sited in particularly small counties, and some private healthcare jobs directly serving prisons have also been lost upon recent closures. Besides these very specific effects, prisons do not appear to exert a local multiplier effect the hosting county; employment in other private sector industries is unaffected by prison opening or closure. I also find no evidence of a change in the county's non-prisoner population. Overall, these results suggest that prisons, and thus potentially other local public employment stimuli, have little utility as a local development strategy. More optimistically, recent prison closures do not appear to be responsible for local economic declines.

The Gender Bonus Gap: Evidence from Young American Workers

In this paper, I document the empirical relationship between performance pay and the gender wage gap in the US and consider several potential explanations for performance pay's relevance for the wage gap. Using data from the NLSY97, I find that women are less likely to be in a performance pay job, earn performance rewards less often within such jobs, and even in their baseline wage experience a smaller earnings increase from participation in performance pay jobs. These findings are not consistent with differences in the taste for competition alone explaining the gender difference in performance pay. I consider bias in subjective evaluation as one alternative explanation, with limited success in explaining empirical findings. Interpretation may be complicated by the potential for performance pay to be correlated with other workplace characteristics. In particular, bonus-awarding jobs demonstrate a higher elasticity of earnings with respect to weekly hours than other jobs, suggesting performance pay may be a feature of the relationship between long weekly hours and the gender wage gap.