

PATRICK H. POWER

Boston University Department of Economics
270 Bay State Road
Boston MA 02215 USA
Cell: (401) 595-8244
Email: ppower1@bu.edu
Personal site: <https://pharringtonp19.github.io/>

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2023 (expected)
Dissertation Title: *Essays in Labor Economics and Applied Econometrics*
Dissertation Committee: Ivan Fernandez-Val, Hiroaki Kaido, and Kevin Lang

B.A., Economics, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, 2016

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Applied Econometrics

PUBLICATIONS

Evans, William N., Ethan MJ Lieber, and Patrick Power. "[How the Reformulation of OxyContin Ignited the Heroin Epidemic.](#)" *Review of Economics and Statistics* 101, no. 1 (2019): 1-15.

WORKING PAPERS

"[The Right to Counsel at Scale](#)" September 2022. Job Market Paper.
(with Shomik Ghosh and Markus Schwedeler)

"[Regularizing the Forward Pass](#)" September 2022.
(with Shomik Ghosh and Markus Schwedeler)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, [Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis](#), Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2021 & 2022

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES: Python (JAX & PyTorch), Haskell

CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS: USA

REFERENCES

Professor Ivan Fernandez-Val
Department of Economics
Boston University
Phone: (617) 353-9670
Email: ivanf@bu.edu

Professor Hiroaki Kaido
Department of Economics
Boston University
Phone: (617) 358-5924
Email: hkaido@bu.edu

Professor Kevin Lang
Department of Economics
Boston University
Phone: (617) 353-5694
Email: lang@bu.edu

PATRICK H. POWER

The Right to Counsel at Scale (Job Market Paper) *(with Shomik Ghosh and Markus Schwedeler)*

The recent events of Covid-19 and rising inflation have magnified the importance and fragility of housing for low-income individuals. In response to this, we empirically assess the effectiveness of an initiative, growing in popularity across the U.S., known as the Right to Counsel (RTC). Aiming to combat the 3.6 million eviction filings each year in the U.S., the Right to Counsel ensures access to free legal representation for low-income individuals facing eviction. Complimenting the small, but growing Economic literature on this topic, we consider the indirect effects of this policy. Exploiting the staggered roll-out across the state of Connecticut, we assess the extent to which this policy may actually increase housing instability by making it harder for those currently unhoused to find permanent housing. Using data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, we find little evidence to suggest that such a policy has adverse effects at scale as some have speculated. We note, that our results are preliminary.

Regularizing the Forward Pass *(with Shomik Ghosh and Markus Schwedeler)*

Applied microeconomic analysis involves making tradeoffs -- assessing which issues are first order, and which can potentially be addressed in an appendix or not at all. Building upon the recent deep learning literature of gradient based meta-learning and regularized neural ordinary differential equations, and in the language of category theory, we introduce a unified structure that allows one to think through these tradeoffs. The framework generalizes OLS, allows for nonparametric cluster effects, and is inherently compositional (even under regularization). We apply this framework to a variety of applied microeconomic contexts estimating average, local, and heterogeneous treatment effects.

How the Reformulation of Oxycontin Ignited the Heroin Epidemic *(with William N. Evans and Ethan Lieber)*

We attribute the recent quadrupling of heroin death rates to the August, 2010 reformulation of an oft-abused prescription opioid, OxyContin. The new abuse-deterrent formulation led many consumers to substitute to an inexpensive alternative, heroin. Using structural break techniques and variation in substitution risk, we find that opioid consumption stops rising in August, 2010, heroin deaths begin climbing the following month, and growth in heroin deaths was greater in areas with greater pre-reformulation access to heroin and opioids. The reformulation did not generate a reduction in combined heroin and opioid mortality—each prevented opioid death was replaced with a heroin death.