

CONNOR DOWD

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Current Employment

Joint Committee on Taxation: Economist 2021-?

Education

PhD: University of Chicago Booth School of Business 2021
Dissertation in Econometrics and Statistics

Committee: Chris Hansen, Max Farrell, Panos Toulis, Constantine Yannelis

MBA: University of Chicago Booth School of Business 2019

BSc: University of St Andrews (Scotland) 2015
(Honours) Economics and Statistics

Working Papers

Extrapolation in RD: Smoothness for Inference with Donuts (Job Market Paper)

Regression Discontinuity (RD) uses policy thresholds to identify causal treatment effects at the threshold. In most settings, the Local Average Treatment Effect (LATE) at the threshold is not the parameter of interest. I provide high level smoothness conditions under which extrapolation across the threshold is possible. Under these restrictions, both estimation and inference for the LATE in other locations is possible. In some situations, extrapolation may be necessary to merely estimate the LATE at the threshold. RD donuts are one such situation, and I provide results allowing estimation and inference in that setting as well.

Inference in Synthetic Controls with Spillovers – with Jianfei Cao

We propose a procedure for debiasing synthetic control estimates in the presence of spillovers.

Work in Progress

Waiting for the Hot Hand - with Sam Hirshman and Nicholas Polson

Using sequence wait times to detect and explain the widespread belief in the hot hand in basketball.

Credit Card Repayment Strategies

Rethinking optimal credit card repayment strategies in the presence of income shocks

Judge Designs: Missing the Forest for the Trees?

Using tree based methods to debias judge-design inference

Teaching Experience

Big Data: Undergraduate – Course Instructor (4.9/5) Spring 2021

New Developments in Public Finance: PhD – Teaching Assistant (*Evaluation: 4.86/5*) 2018-2020

Data Science for Marketing Decision Making: MBA – Teaching Assistant 2019-2020

Applied Regression Analysis: MBA, Executive MBA – Teaching Assistant 2016-2018

Advanced Microeconomic Analysis: MBA – Teaching Assistant 2016

MBA Tutor: Applied Regression Analysis, Business Statistics, Microeconomics, Ongoing
Advanced Microeconomic Analysis, Pricing Strategies, Data-Driven Marketing

Software

Published.....

twosamples: Fast (C++) ECDF two sample tests, with a novel test procedure, in R (Paper) *CRAN, Github*

SCM+ (R): Valid Inference for Synthetic Controls in the presence of Spillovers *Github*

Language Experience.....

Fluent: R, Python, \LaTeX ; *Conversational*: SQL, Matlab, Mathematica;

Used in production code: Stata, SAS, Bash, HTML, C++, Stan, Spark

Other Research Experience

Causal Outcomes of Police Oversight: Research Assistant **Canice Prendergast** 2020
Empirical analysis of crime & arrest data focused on an oversight reform

Food Banks' Welfare Gains from Markets: Research Assistant **Canice Prendergast** 2019
Estimated welfare gains from adding 'auction prices' into food bank donation allocation decisions

Optimal Policy Design under Heterogeneity: Research Assistant **Chris Hansen and Max Farrell** 2018
Simulated using experimental data to optimally target a job-training policy with heterogenous effects

Energy/Environmental Policy Fellowship: Research Fellow **EPIC - India** 2017
Helped start field experiment assessing lifestyle changes associated with solar microgrids in rural India

ESG Investment Research: Research Assistant **Booth Rustandy Center** 2016
Helped create research database focused on funds doing ESG investment in the US.

Happiness and Unemployment Research: Research Assistant **David Ulph** 2015
Used happiness measures to examine welfare consequences from different causes of unemployment.

SSA Policy Research: Intern **Social Security Advisory Board** 2014
Evaluated distributional effects of changes to Social Security's WEP and GPO provisions.

Fellowships

Wesley C. Pickard Fellowship 2020

Katherine Dusak Miller Fellowship 2019

Joseph A. and Susan E. Pichler Fellowship 2018

Energy Policy Institute at Chicago - India Research Fellowship 2017