

Research Statement

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My research focuses on Time Series Econometrics and Public Economics. In my dissertation, I investigate the impact of various public policy on market outcomes in particular renewable energy policy, economic growth and taxation. Hereafter, I summarize my on going dissertation work:

The Impact of Renewable Energy on Food Prices: Evidence from the 2005 Energy Act.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 was enacted by the United States congress in July 2005 prescribing minimum standards of ethanol in commercial gasoline. Between 2006 and 2014 the amount of corn going to fuel production went from 2.1 to 5.2 billion bushels more than doubling in less than a decade. This demand shock impacted the corn industry and farmers land allocation. As corn is being used in food products (high fructose syrup, corn flakes, animal feed, etc), this disruption may have affected food prices in general. In this paper, using monthly data, we explore the question considering different time windows. We seek to detect impacts of this renewable energy consumption shock on food prices that analysis of all time periods could overlook.

The Role of Institutions and Education Spending in Economic Growth.

Are public expenditures on education and government institutions complement or substitutes in achieving economic growth? In recent years, the importance of economic institutions has been emphasized to understand countries economic growth yet their relationship to education spending policy has remained relatively under silence. In this paper, we develop a simple model of growth showing how the two can be substitutes for each other. We then use cross sectional country data to empirically investigate the existence of this relationship.

The Impact of the Kansas Tax Cuts: Evidence from Industries.

The Kansas Income Tax Cut of 2012 was one of the largest in the United States history. With a collapse of the top and lower income brackets respectively from 6.45% to 4.9% and 3.5% to 3%. The cuts were presaged to create new jobs and offset even potential revenue losses. The literature investigating the question provides no evidence of such effect on employment. In this paper, we investigate 99 industries in Kansas and detect industries which experienced significant changes and attempt to link these findings to workforce characteristics. We also explore the leaving of Boeing from Kansas as an possible factor, which has not been done to our knowledge. This is a policy evaluation piece.