

NICHOLAS DIEBEL

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EDUCATION

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

Ph.D. in Economics, *expected* May 2018

- Committee: Julie Holland Mortimer (Chair), Michael Grubb, Richard Sweeney

MA in Economics, May 2014

University of Nevada Reno, Reno, NV

BS in Mathematics, *Magna Cum Laude*, December 2011

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Empirical Industrial Organization, Health, Applied Microeconomics

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Welfare Effects of Using Hospital Rate Setting as an Alternative to Bargaining”

Prices paid by insurers to hospitals are determined by bilateral negotiations in all U.S. states except Maryland, where a unique all-payer rate setting health care regulation sets common prices for all insurers. Theoretical predictions on how bilateral bargaining affects total welfare are ambiguous. We empirically analyze how a Maryland style regulation would affect overall welfare relative to bilateral bargaining, using the New Jersey health care market as an example. Using hospital-, insurer-, and patient-level data from 2010, we estimate a structural model of hospital and insurer demand, and simulate consumer and insurer responses to the new price regime. We find that replacing bargaining with all-payer rate setting increases total surplus in the market. However, not all agents benefit, and the effects depend on how the largest player in our market, Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS), sets premiums. If BCBS sets premiums à la Bertrand Nash, consumer surplus decreases, but joint hospital-insurer surplus increases by more. The number of uninsured increases by two percent. Total surplus increases are robust to different pricing strategies of BCBS, which account for its non-profit status, but diminish the magnitude of surplus gain.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Welfare Effects of Using Hospital Rate Setting as an Alternative to Bargaining” with Ayse Sera Diebel

“Advertisers’ Strategic Decisions to Purchase Commercial Spots in Television Networks” with Sylvia Hristakeva and Julie Holland Mortimer

HONORS AND AWARDS

Graduate Fellowship, Boston College, Fall 2012 - Present

National S.M.A.R.T. Grant, 2009-2011

Pell Grant, 2009-2011

Governor Guinn Millenium Scholarship, 2007-2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

Econometrics (Spring 2018)

Economics of Health Care (Fall 2017)

Principles of Macroeconomics (Spring 2016)

Teaching Assistant, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

Principles of Macroeconomics, Samuel Richardson (Spring 2017)

Principles of Microeconomics, Can Erbil (Fall 2016, 2015, 2014)

Principles of Macroeconomics, Harold Petersen (Spring 2015)

Honors Microeconomic Theory, Tayfun Sonmez (Fall 2012)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Statistics Consultant, Boston College Research Services, Chestnut Hill, MA (Summer 2015 - Present)

- Assisted interdisciplinary faculty with statistical modeling and implementation across various statistical and computing platforms.

SKILLS

Computer Skills: MATLAB, STATA, C++, Python, R, Qualtrics, REDcap

Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (beginner)

REFERENCES

(Chair)
Prof. Julie Holland Mortimer
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