

MICHAEL T. CASSIDY

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Princeton University, School of Public and International Affairs, Center for Health and Wellbeing
Postdoctoral Research Associate (July 2020)

EDUCATION

Rutgers University, Ph.D., Economics (October 2020)
Princeton University, M.P.A., Economics and Public Policy, *with distinction* (2014)
University of Pennsylvania, B.A., Communication and Political Science, *summa cum laude* (2007)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Century Foundation
Fellow (2015-Present)
Policy Associate (2014-2015)
Intern (2013-2014)

New York City Office of Management & Budget
Unit Head, Administration of Justice Task Force (2012)
Analyst, Social Services Task Force (2007-2011)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Primary Fields

Applied Microeconomics
Health, Education, and Welfare Economics
Labor Economics
Econometrics

Secondary Fields

Public Economics
Urban Economics

GRANTS AND AWARDS

National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship (2019)
\$27,500 grant for dissertation research related to education

Peter Asch Memorial Scholarship, Rutgers Economics (2019)
Prize for distinguished performance in applied microeconomics

Sidney I. Simon Research Award, Rutgers Economics (2018)

Prize for best second year research paper
Teaching Assistantship, Rutgers Economics (2016-Present)
Competitive departmental funding for teaching and research

Presidential Fellowship, Rutgers University (2015-Present)
Annual university-wide grant for exceptional doctoral students

Excellence Fellowship, Rutgers Economics (2015)
Competitive departmental grant for first-year graduate study

George H. Frazier Award, University of Pennsylvania (2007)
Award to graduating student-athlete with the highest grade point average

Kathleen Hall Jamieson Award, University of Pennsylvania (2007)
Award to graduating Annenberg School for Communication student with the highest GPA

Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania (2007)
Liberal arts and sciences honor society

RESEARCH PAPERS

Job Market Paper

“A Closer Look: Proximity Boosts Homeless Student Performance in New York City” (2019)

Proximity augments homeless students' educational outcomes. Homeless K-8 graders whose families are placed in shelters near their schools have 8 percent (2.4 days) better attendance, are a third (18 percentage points) less likely to change schools, and exhibit higher rates of proficiency and retention. Homeless high schoolers have 5 percent (2.5 days) better attendance, 29 percent (10 pp) lower mobility, and 8 percent (1.6 pp) greater retention when placed locally. These results proceed from novel administrative data on homeless families observed in the context of a scarcity-induced natural experiment in New York City. A complementary instrumental variable strategy exploiting homeless eligibility policy reveals a subset of proximity-elastic students benefit considerably more. Panel evidence demonstrates homelessness does not cause educational impairment as much as reflect large preexisting deficits.

“Short Moves and Long Stays: Homeless Family Responses to Exogenous Shelter Assignments in New York City” (2020)

Using an original administrative dataset in the context of a scarcity induced-natural experiment in New York City, I find that families placed in shelters in their neighborhoods of origin remain there considerably longer than those assigned to distant shelters. Locally-placed families also access more public benefits and are more apt to work. A fixed effects model assessing multi-spell families confirms these main results. Complementary instrumental variable and regression discontinuity designs exploiting policy shocks and rules, respectively, suggest difficult-to-place families---such as those that are large, disconnected from services, or from neighborhoods where homelessness is common---are especially sensitive to proximate placements. Better targeting through improved screening at intake can enhance program efficiency. The practice of assigning shelter based on chance vacancies ought to be replaced with a system of evidence-based placements tailored to families' resources and constraints.

“Breastfeed, If You Choose: Parental Context and the Long-Term Legacy of Lactation” (2020)

Despite consensus among medical authorities about the desirability of breastfeeding, causal evidence about its effects is surprisingly scant. Using a thorough collection of empirical approaches and detailed

longitudinal data spanning five decades, I investigate a comprehensive set of outcomes with greater breadth and continuity than previous work. On average (per OLS), breastfeeding is associated with modest and persistent cognitive advantages from childhood through young adulthood—even after controlling for an extensive set of confounding forces. Accounting for breastfeeding duration strengthens these relationships and uncovers favorable labor market and fertility linkages as well. But there is no evidence for enduring health benefits. At the same time, a novel extended family fixed effects analysis comparing differentially breastfed siblings and cousins finds little association between breastfeeding and any outcome. I argue these findings are not mutually exclusive by providing evidence that, contrary to conventional wisdom, the divergent estimates are the consequence of considerable negative selection into the subset of families contributing to fixed effects identification.

RESEARCH PAPERS IN PROGRESS

“Childhood Running, Academic Performance, and Health” (2020)

OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Research Affiliations

Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Research Affiliate (2020-Present)

Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence (CIDI), Office of the Mayor of the City of New York, Fellow (2017-Present)

The Century Foundation, Fellow (2015-Present)

Conference and Seminar Presentations & Participation

10th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association. London, UK. *Cancelled.* (2020)

2020 National Academy of Education/Spencer Spring Fellows Retreat. Virtual. (2020)

APPAM DC Regional Student Conference. Washington, DC. *Cancelled.* (2020)

National Academy of Education Annual Meeting & Fellows Retreat. Washington, DC. (2019)

Rutgers University, Department of Economics. Applied Microeconomics Seminar. October 25, 2019.

Rutgers University, Department of Economics. Applied Microeconomics Seminar. April 13, 2017.

Other Conferences Attended

Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA), San Diego, CA. (2020)

NBER Summer Institute. Labor Studies. Cambridge, MA. (2019)

Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA), Philadelphia, PA. (2017)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Econometrics, Rutgers University, Summer 2017, Summer 2018

Teaching Assistant

Financial and Monetary History of the United States, Rutgers, Fall 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019; Spring 2020

European Economic History, Rutgers University, Fall 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Personal Economics and Public Policy, Spring 2019

Economics of Taxation, Rutgers University, Spring 2018

Environmental Economics, Rutgers University, Spring 2018

Introduction to Macroeconomics, Rutgers University, Spring 2017

Public Policy Towards Business, Rutgers University, Spring 2017

Law and Economics Rutgers University, Spring 2017

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING

Data analysis for “Scoring States on Charter School Integration,” Report authored by Halley Potter and Miriam Nunberg, The Century Foundation, 2019.

“Subsidizing the Future: Landing Road Lessons Learned,” Report on the Homestretch Model of Homeless Shelter Development, Prepared for the Bowery Residents’ Committee (BRC), 2018.

SELECTED NON-ACADEMIC WRITING

“Wild Ride Through The Labor Market: Earnings Variability, Well-Being, & Assets Among Primary Earners in the United States, 2008-2013,” The Century Foundation (2016). Unpublished.

“A New Safety Net for An Era of Unstable Earnings,” (with Andrew Stettner and George Wentworth), The Century Foundation (2016).

“The Job Market Took a Vacation—So Why Can’t More Americans Do the Same?,” The Century Foundation (2016).

“Should You Buy Buying Happiness?,” The Century Foundation (2016).

“Fix for \$15,” The Century Foundation (2015).

“Where Are the Jobs?,” *Working Paper Series*, The Century Foundation (2015).

“Who Are the Unemployed?,” *Working Paper Series*, The Century Foundation (2014).

“Uncovering the Labor Market Recovery,” *Working Paper Series*, The Century Foundation (2014).

“Don’t Forget the Kinda Unemployed,” *U.S. News* (2014).

“Unemployment Rate Hides Who the Jobless Really Are,” *U.S. News* (2014).

“The Jobs Report in Black and White: The Hidden Bias in Hiring,” *The Fiscal Times* (2014).

“Unemployment at 5.8%? Here’s the Number that Really Matters,” *The Fiscal Times* (2014).

“Yeah, Why Are Those Bums Getting Paid So Much?,” *U.S. News* (2014).

“Time to Worry About Long-Term Unemployment,” *Real Clear Policy* (2014).

“Giancarlo Stanton’s \$325 Million Deal Isn’t as Rich as it Seems” *The Fiscal Times* (2014).

“Madison Bumgarner: Exhibit A in Baseball’s Screwball Salary System,” *The Fiscal Times* (2014).

“Inverting the Competition,” *Blog of the Century* (2014).

“Jesus Was a Keynesian,” *Blog of the Century* (2014).

“Vox’s Poor Measure of Food Affordability,” *Blog of the Century* (2014).

“What the Spurs Can Teach Us About Inequality,” *Real Clear Policy* (2014).

“How the World Cup Helps Us Make Better Anti-Poverty Policy,” *Blog of the Century* (2014).

“Going the Extra 30 Percent,” *Blog of the Century* (2014).

“The Death Swoosh,” *Blog of the Century* (2014).

“Hawking Yellen,” *Blog of the Century* (2014).

“Laying the Groundwork for a Post-Partnership Health Insurance Marketplace in Illinois,” (with co-authors), Woodrow Wilson School Graduate Consulting Project (2013).

“Welfare Welcome Mats: The Evidence on Welfare Magnets in the Post-Reform Era,” The Century Foundation (2013). Unpublished.

“The Intergenerational Asset Grab,” The Century Foundation (2013).

“Red State/Black State: Taking Fiscal Strength above the Bottom Line,” The Century Foundation (2013).

“The Time of My Life: Staten Island Native Mike Cassidy Shares His Experience Finishing The NYC Marathon Hand-In Hand With His Hero Meb Keflezighi,” *LetsRun.com* (2013).

“On Immigration, the Catholic Church Gets It Right,” *Real Clear Policy* (2013).

“After Boston: Run the Recovery,” *Running Times* (2013).

“America’s Submerged Welfare State,” *Real Clear Policy* (2013).

“Long Run Pain: A Staten Islander’s View on Why the Marathon Should Not Have Been Cancelled,” *LetsRun.com* (2012).

SEMI-PROFESSIONAL DISTANCE RUNNING

2012 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials Participant
Staten Island Marathon Record Holder (2:18:52)
24th Place Overall & 11th American, 2016 New York City Marathon
18th Place Overall & 3rd American, 2016 Houston Marathon
22nd Place Overall & 4th American, 2013 New York City Marathon
11th Place Overall, 2012 Philadelphia Marathon
11th Place Overall, 2011 California International Marathon
22nd Place Overall & 6th American, 2010 ING New York City Marathon
Three-Time Staten Island Half-Marathon Champion (2011, 2012, 2013)
Two-Time Fred Lebow Manhattan Half-Marathon Champion (2014, 2018)

PROGRAMMING AND SOFTWARE SKILLS

Stata (advanced), Mata, R, Gauss, Java, LaTeX, Crystal Reports, Microsoft Office