
CURRICULUM VITAE

Patrick M. Dudley

ADDRESS

Department of Economics
Duke University
Box 90097
Durham, NC 27708-0097

Office: (919)-660-8150

E-MAIL pmd7@duke.edu

WEBPAGE <https://fds.duke.edu/db/aas/Economics/phd/patrick.dudley>

HOME

2748 Campus Walk Ave.
Apt. 19 D
Durham, NC 27705
Home: (919) 383-6807
Cell: (202) 246-6986

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics (expected May 2008), Duke University, Durham, NC, USA

A.B. in Applied Mathematics-Economics, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA, May 2001

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary Fields: Public Economics, Urban/Regional Economics

Secondary Fields: Industrial Organization

DISSERTATION

Title: Welfare Benefits and the Race to the Bottom

Committee: Jacob Vigdor (chair), Christopher Timmins, Thomas Nechyba, Frank Sloan

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2007~2003 Department of Economics, Duke University, Durham, USA

- Research Assistant, Professor Chris Timmins and Somik Lall (World Bank), (August-October 2007)
- Head Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Econometrics (ECON 139, Fall 2006, Spring 2007)
- Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Economics I (ECON 55, Fall 2005, Spring 2006)
- Research Assistant, Professor Jacob Vigdor, (Summer 2005)
- Teaching Assistant, Health Economics (ECON 156, Spring 2005)
- Teaching Assistant, Strategic Behavior (ECON 200JS, Spring 2005)
- Teaching Assistant, Intro to American International Economic Policy (Fall 2004)

2001~2003 AEI-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies

- Research Associate (2003)
- Research Assistant (2001-2003)

WORKING PAPERS

1. "Welfare Benefits and the Race to the Bottom", Fall 2007, Job Market Paper
2. "The Lasting Impact of Teachers: An Analysis of Teacher Race and Student Achievement", Oct 2005, with Kelly Bishop, Kata Mihaly and Alvin Murphy

PUBLICATIONS

1. "How Well Does the U.S. Government Do Benefit-Cost Analysis?" with Robert W. Hahn, *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy*, 2007 1:192-211.
2. "The Disconnect Between Law and Policy Analysis: A Case Study of Drivers and Cell Phones", with Robert W. Hahn, *Administrative Law Review*, Winter 2003 55:1 127:85.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL HONORS and AWARDS

Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University, Summer 2007

Economics Department Summer Fellowship, Duke University, Summer 2006

Undergraduate: Phi Beta Kappa, *Magna Cum Laude*, Honors in Economics

SKILLS and OTHER INFORMATION

Computer Skills: MATLAB, Stata, LaTeX, MS-Word, MS-Excel

REFERENCES

Christopher D. Timmins, Associate Professor of Economics, Duke University
209 Social Sciences Building, Durham NC 27708-0097
Phone: (919) 660-1809
E-mail: timmins@econ.duke.edu

Jacob Vigdor, Associate Professor of Public Policy Studies and Economics, Duke University
252 Rubenstein Hall, Durham NC 27708
Phone: (919) 613-9226
E-mail: jacob.vigdor@duke.edu

Thomas J. Nechyba, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Duke University
213 Social Sciences Building, Durham NC 27708-0097
Phone: (919) 660-1815
E-mail: nechyba@econ.duke.edu

JOB MARKET PAPER ABSTRACT

Strategic interaction among local governments is a major concern in federal systems. In the case of welfare benefits, recipients may relocate in order to receive higher benefits. This migration increases the cost of welfare in high-benefit states. In response, these states may choose to offer lower benefits. Anticipating this action, low-benefit states may adjust their benefits downward as well. In equilibrium, all states may offer benefits lower than they would in the absence of migration, an outcome that is inefficient. A prerequisite for this problem is that welfare benefits do in fact influence migration.

This paper uses a conditional logit model of residential location decisions to estimate the impact of welfare on migration. The key identification issue is separating the effect of benefits from other, possibly unobserved, state characteristics. The paper solves this problem by calculating the lifetime stream of benefits a family is eligible to receive, which creates variation among households in the same state. This strategy takes advantage of the life cycle effect, first used by Gelbach (2004), but also adds variation arising from differences in state treatment of family size. The latter source of identification has not been used in the literature before. Also, the model allows households to choose among all fifty states. Previous discrete choice models in the literature used regions, which obscures the variation in the data.

Data on households comes from the 1990 IPUMS, which is a random, one percent sub-sample of the U.S. Census. Besides the demographic information needed to calculate benefit eligibility, the IPUMS includes the state of residence in 1985 and 1990. This data is also used to calculate estimated wages for all individuals. Data on the benefit levels in all states came from a report by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means.

I find a coefficient on welfare benefits that is positive and significant, but my results imply an effect on migration that is significantly smaller than the existing literature. Furthermore, I find that the effect of benefits is decreasing in education, in contrast to Gelbach (2004). Analysis of my results show that very little of the marginal cost of raising benefits can be attributed to migration. This suggests that the race to the bottom may not be a serious concern.