Torin Pracek

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Contact Queen's University

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Nationality: Canada, Slovenia

EDUCATION Queen's University

M.A. in Economics, Expected 08/2024

McMaster University

Continuing Student, 2023

B.A.Sc., Combined Honours in Economics, 2022

HONOURS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Government of Ontario & Queen's University, 2023 Undergraduate Student Research Award, NSERC & McMaster University, 2021

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE Research Assistant, Secure Empirical Analysis Lab (McMaster University)

Supervisors: Martin Dooley & Arthur Sweetman, 01/2022 – Present

- Collaborated with external partner Hamilton Food Share, a network of food banks across Hamilton, Ontario, to help them better understand the needs of their clinetele.
- Designed Stata algorithms to inspect, aggregate, and clean intake survey data.
- Analyzed demographic data of food bank users to explore the relationship between household food bank usage and education, income level, primary income source, etc.
- Produced descriptive statistics to explore changes to food bank usage over time.
- Utilized Statistics Canada 2016 Census data to compare the demographics of food bank clientele to that of low-income populations in Hamilton.

Economics Seminar Essay, Department of Economics (McMaster University) Supervisor: Angela Zheng, Winter 2022

- Used a fixed effects linear probability model to compare food bank visitation prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic in Hamilton, Ontario.
- Demonstrated subpopulations vulnerable to food insecurity experienced decreased probability of visitation during the pandemic, attributed to heightened barriers to access.

Undergraduate Student Research Award Project, Faculty of Arts & Science (Mc-Master University)

Supervisor: Arthur Sweetman, Summer 2021

- Used Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey to analyze disparities in hours worked and work absences between union and non-union workers prior to and during the pandemic.
- Ran a probability regression model to estimate significance of these disparities.
- Demonstrated disparities in labour market outcomes between union and non-union during the pandemic was minimal when controlling for private and public sector work.

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Research Data Centre (McMaster University) Supervisor: Arthur Sweetman, Summer 2021

- Conducted literature reviews and prepared summaries for different working papers.
- Analyzed data from Canada's Labour Force Survey and prepared preliminary graphs.
- Produced and modified regression tables in Excel on a as-needed basis.

Teaching EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics (Queen's University)

ECON 332: Economic History of North America since 1865, Fall 2023

• Graded midterm exams on the application of macroeconomic models and econometric methods to historical events in the United States and Canada.

Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Arts & Science (McMaster University)

ARTSSCI 2E03: Economics: Principles and Policy, Fall 2021

- Held weekly office hours; marked assignments, tests, and exams; and corresponded with 26 undergraduate students in an introduction class in micro- and macro-economics.
- Facilitated weekly one-hour tutorial lectures focused on teaching students how to apply best practices in economic theory to conventional public policy issues, including income inequality and government intervention.

PRESENTATIONS Undergraduate Student Research Award Poster Session (McMaster University)

"Union Status, Labour Market Outcomes, and COVID-19: Are Canadian Unions Good for Workers in Times of Crisis and Recovery?" Online (Microsoft Teams), 19/11/2021.

SKILLS

Software

Proficient in: Excel, R, Stata

Familiar with: LaTeX

Beginner in: MATLAB, Python

Languages

English (native), French (beginner), Slovenian (beginner)

COMMUNITY

Canadian Slovenian Historical Society, 2022

Involvement

Converted historic documents, including an autobiography and interview audio, into electronic text files to be published on the society's website.

Pathways to Education Hamilton, Fall 2022

Tutored high-school students in mathematics, with specific regard to algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and arithmetic.

McMaster University Model United Nations, 2018/19

Articulated Japanese national views on political extremism and refugee rights in a mock caucus.

Interests

Labour Economics, Inequality & Poverty, Urban Economics