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EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, University of British Columbia, 2020
MA in Economics, Queen's University, 2013
BA Honours in Economics (Mathematics minor), University of Saskatchewan, 2012

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Alberta
July 2020 – Present

Teaching Assistant at University of British Columbia
September 2014 – December 2014, September 2016 – April 2019

Research Assistant for Professors Kevin Milligan (University of British Columbia) and
Tammy Schirle (Wilfrid Laurier University)
June 2017 – April 2020

Research Assistant for Professor Joseph Henrich (University of British Columbia)
Summer 2015

Teaching Assistant at Queen's University
September 2012 – April 2013

Research Assistant for Professor Eric Howe (University of Saskatchewan)
Summer 2012

RESEARCH

The Impact of State-Provided Education: Evidence from the 1870 Education Act (Accepted at the *Economic Journal*)

How does access to public education affect occupational outcomes and intergenerational mobility? The UK's 1870 Education Act, which introduced a public education system in England and Wales, provides a unique historical context in which to explore these questions. Using newly digitized historical records, I find that the Act resulted in significant improvements in school supply and attendance, which in turn improved adult outcomes. In particular, analysis using a regression kink design suggests that public school access improved a child's chance of obtaining an occupation requiring literacy in adulthood by as much as 17 pp. I use a triple difference specification to show that the effect extended to children further removed from the kink, and that the quality of occupational outcomes increased with each additional year of schooling. To study the reform's effect on intergenerational mobility, I link father-son pairs across time, matching nearly 4 million individuals using full-count historical censuses. I find that by targeting the lower classes, public school introduction significantly improved intergenerational mobility across numerous measures, with the adult outcome gap between high- and low- class children decreasing by over 10% in some cases.

Compulsory Schooling and Minority Language Preservation: Welsh and the 1870 Education Act (Working Paper)

Language decline is the fear of many a minority in multiethnic states across the world, with the perennial question being whether the minority's youth will carry on the linguistic torch of their forebears. Given this, it is unsurprising that language policy often sparks fierce debate, particularly in the context of child education. Yet empirical work examining the long-term casual effects of language policy has been sparse. This paper

seeks to address this deficiency by studying the impact the introduction of compulsory English-medium education had on the Welsh language. Welsh nationalists have long suggested that the 1870 Act – a landmark piece of legislation which brought about universal elementary education in England and Wales for the first time through the establishment of public schools – did grievous damage to the Welsh language by largely compelling school instruction to be conducted in English. Using full-count census data, I find that communities in Wales that received public schools as a result of the 1870 Act did indeed experience a decline in the number of Welsh-only speakers among those young enough to be treated. Surprisingly, however, the number of English-only speakers initially declined as well, perhaps due to increased socialization between Welsh- and English-speaking children in places that received public schools. Within a generation, though, the negative impact on total Welsh speakers was significant, as the children of those treated were less likely to speak any Welsh.

The Long-term Effects of Child Labour Legislation: Evidence from Britain's 1860 Mining Act (Working Paper)

While many previous works have examined the immediate efficacy of child labour laws, without linked data they have been necessarily silent on how they affected the adult outcomes of treated children. This paper breaks new ground by tracing the effects of historical child labour reform from childhood through to adulthood. I first show that by decreasing the opportunity cost and increasing the returns to schooling, Britain's 1860 Mining Act led to increased human capital acquisition among the children of coal miners. Then, using full-count census records linked across decades, I demonstrate that positive effects extended well into adulthood, as these same children became significantly more likely to obtain human capital-intensive occupations.

Post-Conflict Outcomes: Studying Community-Level Effects of WWI Deaths in Post-War England and Wales (Working Paper)

During the First World War, death rates of local soldiers experienced by English and Welsh communities varied widely. Using this variation, I examine the effect of soldier mortality on changes in postwar poverty and employment outcomes. I find higher conflict death rates are associated with a fall in local poverty, with the effect appearing to be stronger among men than women. I also find weak evidence suggesting employment rates rose where death rates were higher, particularly among women. Together, these results suggest that while high death rates improved labour market conditions for those left behind, widowed women were likely forced into the labour market to avoid poverty. Finally, I demonstrate that war-induced falls in the ratio of marriage-aged males to females resulted in an increase in out-of-wedlock births, confirming previous findings showing that men often utilize marriage market bargaining power to shirk childcare responsibility.

Clergy Income and Religious Dissent: Evidence From a Long-Running Randomized Experiment in 1700s Britain (Work in Progress)

Co-author with Matt Lowe and Cory Smith.

English Industrialization and (the right kind of) Protestantism (Work in Progress)

The Impact of World War I on Female Labour Force Participation in England and Wales (Work in Progress)

Co-author with Victor Gay.

AWARDS & GRANTS

2023	SSSR Jack Shand Research Grant, “Clergy Income and Religious Dissent”
2022	SSHRC Insight Development Grant, “Clergy Income and Religious Dissent”
2021	Alexander Gerschenkron Prize Finalist, awarded by the Economic History Association for the best dissertation in economic history on a non-North American topic.
2018	University of British Columbia Graduate Student Research Award
2017	CIDE Innovative Data Grant for “The Impact of State-Provided Education: Evidence from the 1870 Education Act.”
2013	University of British Columbia Four Year Doctoral Fellowship
2012	SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Master’s Scholarship
2012	Queen’s University Graduate Award and Teaching Assistantship
2012	University of Saskatchewan Copland Prize in Social Sciences: most distinguished graduate receiving a Bachelor of Arts Four-year or Honours degree or certificate in the Social Sciences.
2012	Lewis C. Grey Prize: outstanding graduate in economics at the University of Saskatchewan
2011	Popoff Scholarship: outstanding student in third or fourth year of economics at the University of Saskatchewan
2010	Fowke Award: outstanding economics essay by an undergraduate student at the University of Saskatchewan

PRESENTATIONS

2025	Canadian Network of Economic History (Montreal, QC)
2024	Wilfred Laurier Economics Seminar (Virtual)
2024	Canadian Economic Association Conference (Toronto, ON)
2023	University of Saskatchewan Economics Seminar (Saskatoon, SK)
2022	Vancouver School of Economics Seminar (Vancouver, BC)
2022	World Economic History Congress (Paris, France)
2022	Northwestern Economic History Seminar (Evanston, IL)
2022	Canadian Network of Economic History (Fredericton, NB)
2021	Economic History Association (Tucson, AZ)
2021	University College London Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM) Seminar Series (Virtual)
2021	Yale Economic History Workshop (Virtual)
2021	Canadian Economic Association Conference (Virtual)
2021	VSE Culture and Persistence Seminar Series (Virtual)
2021	“Rise of Education in Historical Perspective” Seminar Series (Virtual)
2020	Nuffield Historical Social Mobility Seminar Series (Virtual)
2020	Economic History Association (Virtual)
2019	Canadian Network of Economic History (Thunder Bay, ON)
2019	NBER Workshop on Income and Life Expectancy (Cambridge, MA)
2018	Social Science History Association (Phoenix, AZ)
2018	Economic History Association (Montreal, QC) (Poster)

REFERENCES

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