

NATHAN MATHER

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Education

2023	PhD in Economics, University of Michigan (anticipated)
2019	Master's in Economics, University of Michigan
2016	BA in Economics (Honors), University of Wisconsin-Madison
2016	BA in Mathematics, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2016	BA in Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Fields

Main Fields: Public Finance, Applied Microeconomics

Sub-fields: Education, Welfare Economics, Political Economy

Dissertation Papers

“Is Utility Concave?” (Job Market Paper)

This paper empirically estimates the degree to which the marginal utility of income changes across income groups. The estimation is based on survey responses indicating willingness to pay to avoid unpleasant experiences and relies on the assumption that the associated discomfort, or disutility, is equal on average across income groups. This assumption implies that any differences in average willingness to pay for relief are entirely driven by differences in marginal utilities of income. The results suggest that marginal utility of income is constant across income groups, implying that (cardinal) utility is roughly linear in dollars.

“From Value Added to Welfare Added: A Social Planner Approach to Education Policy and Statistics” (With Julian Betts, Tanner S Eastmond, and Michael Ricks)

“I'll Have What They're Having: State Fiscal Policy Interdependence”

Papers in Progress

“Taxing Under the Influence: Optimal Tax Under Political Influences”

Research Experience

05/2016- 07/2017	Research Analyst, Education Analytics
2018 - 2020	Research Assistant for Brian Jacob, University of Michigan
05/2020-08/2020	Research Analyst, Education Policy Initiative, University of Michigan

Teaching Experience

Graduate Student Instructor

Winter 2022	Ethics in Economic Behavior
Fall 2021	The European Economy
Fall 2019; Fall 2020	American Industries
Winter 2020; Spring 2021	Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
Fall 2018; Winter 2019, 2021	Principles of Microeconomics (Head GSI Winter 2021)

Teaching Consultant

Fall 2020	Created course material for Statistics in Public Policy, Applied Econometrics, Quantitative Methods of Program Evaluation
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Tutor

Fall 2015-Spring 2017	UW Madison Athletic Department: introductory and intermediate microeconomics and macroeconomics, agricultural economics, agricultural finance, statistics for economists, econometrics, environmental economics, and behavioral economics
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Honors, Fellowships, and Grants

2018	Department of Economics Summer Research Award (University of Michigan)
2019	Department of Economics Summer Research Award (University of Michigan)
2022	Department of Economics Research Grant (University of Michigan)
2022	Economics Fellowship (University of Michigan)
2022	Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant

Presentations

11/2020	Causal Inference in Education Research Seminar (University of Michigan)
7/2020	Summer Seminar (University of Michigan)
6/2021	Summer Seminar (University of Michigan)
7/2021	Industrial Organization Summer Lunch (University of Michigan)
11/2021	Public Finance Free Lunch Seminar (University of Michigan)
4/2022	Public Finance Free Lunch Seminar (University of Michigan)

Service

Refereeing:	Journal of Urban Affairs
Graduate Economics Society:	Board Member 2018-2019

Personal Skills and Information

Software	R (expert), Stata (expert), python, Matlab, Julia, Github, Latex/Overleaf, C++
Citizenship	United States

Dissertation Committee

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