

C. Luke Watson

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Research Interests

Public Economics, Urban Economics, Industrial Organization
Tax Incidence, Imperfect Information, Bank Branching, Online Bank Competition

Employment

Senior Financial Economist, Center for Financial Research, FDIC Aug 2023
Financial Economist, Center for Financial Research, FDIC Aug 2021 - Aug 2023

Education

Ph.D. Economics, Michigan State University 2015 - 2021
M.A. Economics, Old Dominion University 2013 - 2015
B.A. Economics, Old Dominion University 2009 - 2013

Working Papers

“Is the Rent Too High: Land Ownership and Monopoly Power” (with O.Ziv) 2025
“A Test for Pricing Power in Urban Housing Markets” (with O.Ziv) 2024
– Conditionally Accepted, Review of Economics and Statistics

Works in Progress

“Bank Competition for Neighborhood Deposits” (with M.Kutzbach, G.Wagner)
“Algorithmic Pricing in Residential Rental Markets” (with N.Eubanks, A.Handler, O.Ziv)
“Distance and Deposits” (with F. Toyin-Elebuta)
“Testing for Uniform Pricing Using Deposit Account Data” (with T.Kravitz, F. Toyin-Elebuta)
“Bank Website Adoption and Implications” (with L.Baldomero-Quintana, N.Rowe, A.Ufier)
“CBDC News and Market Sentiment” (with S.Borkhoche, J.Yung)
“Learning about Banks using a Bank Activity Index” (with J.Kachovic, J.Pandolfo)
“Bank Entry in Concentrated Markets” (with C. Levy)
“A Test for Market Definition in Aggregate Logit Models with an Application to Retail Banking”

Prior Employment

Instructor : Development Economics (Michigan State University) Fall 2020
Instructor : Principles of Microeconomics (Old Dominion University) Summer 2015
TA : (MSU) Public Revenues, Ec. of Poverty & Income, Int'l Trade (x4), Urban Econ (x3)
Interm.Micro, Intro.Micro, Intro.Macro 2015-2020
TA : (AEASP) Foundations Microeconomics and Mathematics Summer 2017
RA : (MSU) Oren Ziv, Prabhat Barnwal, (ODU) Gary Wagner, Tim Komarek 2013-2020
Barista : Starbucks 2009-2015

Presentations

2024: Lincoln Institute UE & PE Conference. 2023: Mid-Atlantic Trade Workshop, NTA.
 2022: AREUEA / ASSA, AREUEA Nat'l, NTA, UEA (USA). 2021: UEA (Europe).
 2020: Ohio University, MVEA, NTA. 2019: NTA.

Dissertation Work on EITC

“The General Equilibrium Incidence of the Earned Income Tax Credit” 2021
 “Estimating Supply & Demand Elasticities Using a Single Tax Rate with GE Spillovers” 2021
 “The Local Labor Market Effects of State EITC Supplements” 2021

Service

AEASP-FDIC - Experiential Learning Partner Summer 2024
 FDIC - History of the FDIC presenter 2024-tbd
 FDIC - CFR Seminar Coordinator 2022-2024
 FDIC - Reader for FDIC Consumer Research Symposium 2022-2023
 Michigan State University - Applied Economics Student Workshop Organizer 2017-2020
 Michigan State University - Graduate Student Seminar Organizer 2018-2020
 Michigan State University - Graduate Instruction Committee 2017-2018
 Old Dominion University - Ad Hoc Committee on Birthday Singing 2013-2015

FDIC Projects

Options for Deposit Insurance Reform [Public] 2023
 Literature Review on Digital Currencies and Financial Stability [Internal] 2022
 Crypto-Watch Paper Round-Up [Internal] 2022-tbd

Referee Service

Contemporary Economic Policy, International Tax and Public Finance, Journal of Financial Services Research, Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Public Finance Review

Awards and Grants

Dissertation Completion Fellowship (MSU) 2020
 Outstanding Graduate Economics Student Award (ODU) 2015
 Graduate Student Tuition Fellowship (ODU) 2013-2015
 Constant Dominion Business Student Merit Scholarship (ODU) 2013
 Town-N-Gown Scholarship (ODU) 2013
 Governor’s Technology Tuition Scholarship (ODU) 2009-2013
 Time Magazine Person of the Year (shared) 2006

Memberships

American Economics Association, American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, National Tax Association