

Alexander Marsella

610-306-0025 | acm0043@mix.wvu.edu | [linkedin.com/in/alexmarsellaecon/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexmarsellaecon/)

EDUCATION

West Virginia University

Morgantown, WV

Doctor of Philosophy, Economics; Doctoral Supervisor Dr. Brad Humphreys

Expected 2023

- Fields: Urban, Public, Health
- Dissertation employs advanced causal inference techniques to study public policy using spatial data.

West Virginia University

Morgantown, WV

Master of Arts, Economics

August 2018 - May 2021

- Coursework included Econometrics 1 through 3, Public Economics 1 & 2, Health Economics 1 & 2, Law & Economics, and Urban Economics.

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

West Chester, PA

Bachelor of Science, Economics; Math Minor

August 2014 - May 2018

- Coursework included full sequence of calculus, linear algebra, differential equations, calculus statistics, and real analysis.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Insuring legislative wealth transfers: theory and evidence
(w/ B. Cutsinger and Y. Zhou) | *Public Choice*

2022

Readership and citations as alternative measures of impact
(w/ A. Cardazzi and R. Congleton) | *Constitutional Political Economy*

2021

On the stability of US politics: post-sample forecasts and refinements of the Congleton-Shughart models (w/ R. Congleton and Y. Kim) | *Public Choice*

2020

DISSERTATION: *Vice, Violence, and Unhealthy Behaviors in an Urban Setting*

Do Place-Based Crime Reduction Policies Work?: Evidence from the West Philadelphia Promise Zone | *Job Market Paper* - Available on SSRN

2021

- This paper studies the effect of the West Philadelphia Promise Zone Initiative on violent crime rates in a high-crime area of West Philadelphia, where a series of public safety and quality of life improvement grants were dispersed from 2014 to 2019. Results using a difference-in-differences analysis with two-way fixed effects along with cluster-robust and bootstrapped standard errors provides the first causal evidence of a modest reduction in violent crime, primarily simple assaults, attributable to this program. By the end of 2019, the Promise Zone descends to around the average level of violent crime experienced across the rest of Philadelphia, attributable mainly to a reduction in simple assaults. The synthetic difference-in-differences estimator corroborates this result, with some important caveats. While it can not necessarily be ruled out, I do not find strong causal evidence of a reduction in shootings attributable to the Promise Zone. That being said, a back-of-the-envelope cost-benefit analysis suggests that the Promise Zone may have recouped the majority of its investment in public safety through a reduced social cost of crime victimization.

Supervised Injection and NIMBY in Philadelphia: A Contingent Valuation Experiment

In-Progress

Soda Taxes and Fecundability: Evidence from US Cities

In-Progress

WORKING PAPERS

Income Inequality and Party Alternation: State-Level Evidence from the United States (w/ P. Calcagno and Y. Zhou) | Available on SSRN | (Revise & Resubmit at *Contemporary Economic Policy*)

2021

GRANTS & AWARDS

Burks Family Fund for Economic Research (WVU) <i>Survey Collection: Safe-Injection and NIMBYism in Philadelphia</i>	2021
Hayek Fund for Scholars (IHS) <i>Survey Collection: Safe-Injection and NIMBYism in Philadelphia</i>	2021
Humane Studies Fellowship (IHS)	2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Applied Economic Research (Senior Capstone) <i>Instructor of Record</i>	Fall 2022
Causal Inference <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Spring 2022
Intermediate Microeconomics <i>Instructor of Record</i>	Spring 2022
Intermediate Microeconomics <i>Instructor of Record</i>	Fall 2021
Principles of Microeconomics - Two Sections <i>Instructor of Record</i>	Spring 2021
Survey of Economics <i>Instructor of Record - Asynchronous, Online</i>	Fall 2020

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Southern Economic Association Conference <i>Does Place-Based Crime Reduction Work?: Evidence from the Philadelphia Promise Zone</i>	2021
Southern Economic Association Conference <i>The effect of crowds on petty-crimes and law enforcement: A natural experiment from European football leagues</i>	2021
Mid-Continent Regional Science IMPLAN Conference <i>Does Place-Based Crime Reduction Work?: Evidence from the Philadelphia Promise Zone</i>	2021
Public Choice Society Conference <i>Income Inequality and Party Alternation: State-Level Evidence from the United States</i>	2020

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban Economics
Public Economics
Health Economics
Non-market Valuation
Policy Analysis

AD HOC JOURNAL REFEREE

Managing Sport and Leisure

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES

R
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GIS