

Ali Enami

September 2017

Department of Economics, 206 Tilton Hall, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118
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- Education** PhD, Department of Economics, Tulane University Expected: May 2018
Dissertation title: Analyzing the Socio-economic Impacts of Fiscal Policies:
Educational Attainment, Interstate Migration, Inequality, and Poverty.
Committee: James Alm (chair), Alan Barreca, Douglas Harris, and Nora Lustig.
- MS, Department of Economics, Tulane University Dec. 2015
- MA, Department of Economics, The University of Akron Dec. 2012
- MBA, Malek-Ashtar University of Technology (*Iran*) Sept. 2009
- BS, Industrial Engineering, K.N. Toosi U. of Tech. (*Iran*) Sept. 2006
- Research Areas** Public Economics, Education Economics, Health Economics, and Development Economics.
- Grant** *The Economic Research Forum (Egypt):* \$5,000 (PI) Jan. 2015– Jan. 2016
“The role of fiscal policies in fighting poverty and reducing inequality in Iran with a focus on Energy subsidies reform: An application of Commitment to Equity (CEQ) framework.”
- Other Outside Funding** (1) *Global Development Network:* \$5,000 Jun. 2017– Oct. 2018
(2) *Humane Studies Fellowship, IHS:* \$4,000 Academic Year: 2017–18
(3) *IHS PhD Scholarship:* \$1,500 Academic Year: 2015–16
(IHS: Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University)
- Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals** (1) “Does Unrestricted Public School Choice Increase Racial Segregation? Evidence from a Natural Experiment in New Orleans”; *Applied Economics Quarterly*; Forthcoming.
(2) “Do Government Subsidies to Low-income Individuals Affect Interstate Migration? Evidence from the Massachusetts Health Care Reform”; with James Alm; *Regional Science and Urban Economics*; 66; 119-131; 2017.
(3) “Balancing the Ticket While Appealing to the Base: The Game Theory Behind Mitt Romney's Selection of Paul Ryan as his Presidential Running Mate”; with Thomas P. Krudel Jr.; *Party Politics*; 23 (5); 498-506; 2017 (First published online: September 23, 2015).
(4) “Do Refugee-Immigrants Affect International Trade? Evidence from the World’s Largest Refugee Case”; with Sucharita Ghosh; *Journal of Policy Modeling*; 37 (2); 291-307; 2015.
- Book Chapters** (1) “Measuring the Effectiveness of Taxes and Transfers in Fighting Inequality and Poverty”; A chapter in Nora Lustig (Ed.) “*Commitment to Equity Handbook. A Guide to Estimating the Impact of Fiscal Policy on Inequality and Poverty*”; Brookings Institution Press and CEQ Institute, Tulane University; Forthcoming.
(2) “An Application of the CEQ Effectiveness Indicators: The Case of Iran”; Ibid.
(3) “Measuring the Redistributive Impact of Taxes and Transfers in the Presence of Reranking”; Ibid.
(4) “Analytic Foundations: Measuring the Redistributive Impact of Taxes and Transfers”; with Nora Lustig and Rodrigo Aranda Balcazar; Ibid.

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Other Publications

- (1) “The Role of Fiscal Policy in Fighting Poverty and Reducing Inequality in Iran (An Application of the Commitment to Equity (CEQ) Framework)”; with Nora Lustig and Alireza Taqdiri; Economic Research Forum (Egypt) working paper series; No. 1020; July 2016.
- (2) “Determinants of Child Mortality in Africa: A Methodological Discussion”; January 2016; Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2711757>
- (3) “The Effect of In Utero Exposure to Asian Flu (1957-58) on Future Earnings”; January 2016; Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2711764>
- (4) “Pairing with an extreme running mate helps moderate presidential candidates to appeal to more voters”; USApp – American Politics and Policy Blog, The London School of Economics and Political Science; 2015.
- (5) “The Effect of Oil Revenue on Consumption Expenditure in Iran”; Proceedings of the 43rd annual conference of MCRSA; Bloomington, Minnesota; June 6-8, 2012.

Working Papers and Work in Progress

- (1) “Increasing Teachers’ Compensation or Building New Schools: How Do Different Types of School Expenditures Affect the Educational Attainment of Students?” Tulane working paper. September 2017.
- (2) “Fiscal Policy, Inequality, and Poverty in Iran: Assessing the Impact and Effectiveness of Taxes and Transfers”; with Nora Lustig and Alireza Taqdiri. Tulane working paper. September 2017.
- (3) “The Theoretic Argument for a Brokered Convention: Examining the Strategies and Best Response Function for the Republican Party in the 2016 Presidential Election”; with Thomas P. Krumer Jr.
- (4) “Who Responds? Using Experiments to Identify Individual Responses to Policies”; with James Alm and Michael McKee.

Invited Talks

- (1) MENA Chief Economist Office Seminar Series at The World Bank; Washington D.C. June 28, 2017.
- (2) Guest Seminar at the Middle East and Central Asia Department of the International Monetary Fund; Washington D.C. June 27, 2017.
- (3) CEQ-IDB Workshop on Equity of Public Expenditure at the Inter-American Development Bank; Washington D.C. June 26, 2017.
- (4) Learning Event on the Commitment to Equity Methodology at The World Bank; Washington D.C.; February and July 2016.

Conference Presentations

- (1) Upcoming: 87th annual conference of the Southern Economic Association; Tampa, FL; November 17-19, 2017.
- (2) 7th meeting of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ); New York City; July 17-19, 2017.
- (3) Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Colloquium, Institute for Humane Studies at George Masson University; Fairfax, VA; November 13-15, 2015.
- (4) The 49th annual meeting of the Missouri Valley Economic Association (MVEA); Memphis, Tennessee; October 25-27, 2012.
- (5) The Mid-Continent Regional Science Association (MCRSA); Bloomington, Minnesota; June 6-8, 2012.

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Research Affiliations	Resident research associate at the Commitment to Equity Institute at Tulane University Research Assistant to: Professor Nora Lustig (<i>Tulane University</i>) Professor Mahdi Elyasi (<i>Malek-Ashtar University of Technology (Iran)</i>)	June 2016 – present Jan. 2015 – present Sept. 2008 – Sept. 2009
Teaching Experience	Tulane university: <i>Instructor</i> <i>Undergraduate Course:</i> Introduction to Microeconomics Tulane University: <i>Teaching Assistant</i> <i>Undergraduate Courses:</i> Introduction to Microeconomics, Introduction to Macroeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, and Economics of Money and Banking. <i>Graduate Course:</i> Econometrics I. The University of Akron: <i>Teaching Assistant</i> <i>Undergraduate Courses:</i> Introduction to Economics, Principles of Microeconomics, Introduction to Economic Analysis, and Intermediate Macroeconomics. <i>Graduate Course:</i> Foundations of Economic Analysis Payam-e Noor University (Iran): <i>Instructor</i> <i>Undergraduate Courses:</i> Engineering Applied Statistics and Probability, Operations Research, and Engineering Economics. Malek-Ashtar University of Technology (Iran): <i>TA</i> <i>Graduate Course:</i> Strategic Management in Practice	Fall 2016 Aug. 2014 – present Aug. 2011 – Dec. 2012 Spring 2011 Sept. 2008 – Sept. 2009
Honors and Awards (internally)	<i>Tulane University:</i> SLA Summer Merit Fellowship (\$2,500) Murphy Fellowship (Full Tuition & Stipend) Murphy Teaching Assistantship (Stipend) School of Liberal Art Fellowship (Full Tuition & Stipend) <i>The University of Akron:</i> Graduate Assistantship (Full Tuition & Stipend) <i>Malek-Ashtar University of Technology</i> (Full Tuition) <i>K.N. Toosi University of Technology</i> (Full Tuition)	Summer 2017 Academic Years: 2014–18 Academic Years: 2014–18 Academic Year: 2013–14 Aug. 2011 – Dec. 2012 Sept. 2006 – Sept. 2009 Sept. 2002 – Sept. 2006
Services	<i>Referee:</i> Public Finance Review, International Migration. <i>Tulane University:</i> <i>Member:</i> Provost's Office, Graduate Council; School of Liberal Arts, Graduate Studies Committee; School of Liberal Arts, Graduate Honor Board <i>President:</i> Association of Graduate Economics Students <i>Representative:</i> Graduate Studies Student Association <i>K.N. Toosi University of Technology (Iran):</i> <i>Editor:</i> Undergraduate-run Academic Journal of the Department of Industrial Engineering: <i>Daricheh.</i>	
Software	Stata, SAS, ArcGIS, Latex.	
Languages	Farsi (Native), English (Fluent).	
Personal Info	<i>Citizenship:</i> Iran (Student visa)	<i>Gender:</i> Male

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Membership American Economic Association, Southern Economic Association, Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ).

Professional Experiences (part time)

Consultant: <i>Global Development Network (USA)</i>	Sept. 2016 – present
Research Associate: <i>CEQ Institute (USA)</i>	June 2016 – present
Short Term Consultant: <i>The World Bank (USA)</i>	Oct. 2014 – June 2016 (with a few months off between contracts)
Consultant: <i>Public Warehouses & Customs Services Co. (Iran)</i>	Oct.– June 2011
Planning and System Engineer: <i>Iran Switch Co. (Iran)</i>	Apr. 2009 – May 2010
Business Architect: <i>P.M. Samane Co. (Iran)</i>	Sept. 2008 – Apr. 2009

References

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Professor Toni Weiss
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Research Papers (Recent)

Increasing Teachers' Compensation or Building New Schools: How Do Different Types of School Expenditures Affect the Educational Attainment of Students? [Job Market Paper]

Does the enormous variation in financial resources available to local schools affect student achievement? There is an intense debate over the inequality of opportunity in public schools due to differences in financial resources, but there is little empirical evidence that sheds light on this issue. The main purpose of this paper is to measure the impact of various types of school expenditures (i.e. operating, minor capital, and major capital expenditures) on the short- and long-term educational achievement of students. This paper also looks at various channels (i.e. class size, attendance, discipline, and teachers' compensation) through which each type of expenditure could affect the performance of students. I use a dynamic regression discontinuity design that relies upon the exogenous variation in public school funding in Ohio that is created by marginally approved or failed local referenda to fund

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school districts. I find that only one type of expenditure, the approval of additional operating expenditures, has a positive effect in the short-term on the math proficiency of students subject to Ohio high school graduation tests, i.e. about 0.033 standard deviation (0.27 percentage points) for every additional \$1000 extra per pupil operating expenditure. I also find that the subsequent increase in the average expenditure on instructional staff is the only channel that can explain this effect. I do not find any long-term effect for any type of school expenditures.

Does Unrestricted Public School Choice Increase Racial Segregation? Evidence from a Natural Experiment in New Orleans [Applied Economics Quarterly; forthcoming]

This paper investigates the impact of introducing unrestricted public school choice on racial segregation in these schools. Using educational reform in the public schools of post-Katrina New Orleans as a natural experiment, this study shows that removing traditional public school zones (i.e. unrestricted choice) does not lead to additional racial segregation in public schools. The difference-in-difference-in-differences (DDD) approach of this paper accounts for the fact that the population of New Orleans may have changed (demographically and psychologically) because of the hurricane and disentangles the “reform effect” from the “hurricane effect”, a neglected bias that plagues previous studies of this reform.

Do Government Subsidies to Low-income Individuals Affect Interstate Migration? Evidence from the Massachusetts Health Care Reform [with James Alm; Regional Science and Urban Economics; 66; 119-131; 2017]

Following the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010, many – but not all – states decided to expand their Medicaid program in line with provisions of the new law. Will low-income individuals respond to the incentives of living in a state with better health subsidies by relocating to the state? This paper addresses this question by examining the population growth rate of low-income individuals in Massachusetts following the Massachusetts Health Care Reform (MHCR) of 2006. Like the ACA, the MHCR expanded the Medicaid program, and also provided subsidized health insurance for low-income individuals. Using difference-in-differences and triple-differences models and Internal Revenue Service tax return data, we show that the reform did not have a global effect on the movement of low-income individuals across all cities in Massachusetts. However, we also show that the reform did have a local (or border) effect on the movement into border cities of the state, an effect that is relatively large for cities very close to the border but disappears quickly once the distance to border goes beyond 15 miles.

Fiscal Policy, Inequality, and Poverty in Iran: Assessing the Impact and Effectiveness of Taxes and Transfers [with Nora Lustig and Alireza Taqdiri; under review at Middle East Development Journal]

Using the Iranian Household Expenditure and Income Survey for 2011/12, we estimate the impact and effectiveness of various components of Iran’s fiscal system on reducing inequality and poverty. We utilize the marginal contribution analysis to determine the impact of each component, and we introduce newly developed indicators of effectiveness to calculate how well various taxes and transfers are operating to reduce inequality and poverty. We find that the fiscal system reduces the poverty-head-count-ratio by 10.5 percentage points and inequality by 0.0854 Gini points. Transfers are generally more effective in reducing inequality than taxes while taxes are especially effective in raising revenue without causing poverty to rise. Although transfers are not targeted toward the poor, they reduce poverty significantly. The main driver is the Targeted Subsidy Program (TSP), and we show through simulations that the poverty reducing impact of TSP could be enhanced if resources were more targeted to the bottom deciles.