

Steven Lee

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References

Professor Anna Aizer
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Professor John Friedman
Brown University
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Professor Peter Hull
Brown University
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Education

Brown University, Ph.D., Economics, 2020–

Brown University, M.A., Economics, 2020–2021

Harvard University, A.B., *cum laude* in Economics with high honors, secondary in Statistics, 2012–2016

Research

Job market paper

“Content relatability and standardized testing: Evidence from Texas” with Matthew Schaelling

Revise and resubmit, *American Economic Review*

Short abstract: *We test whether the presence of topics and character identities in standardized tests impact reading comprehension test scores in Texas. Using time-use data and natural language processing to build race- and gender-based measures of “relatability” to passage topics, we find that a one standard deviation increase in racial topic relatability predicts a 0.05 standard deviation test score improvement, with null effects for gender. Students also perform better on passages featuring characters that share their race or gender. Our results suggest balanced topics and character identities in our setting would reduce Black-White and Hispanic-White score gaps by 9% and 10%, respectively. We counterfactually estimate ~11,000 Black and ~37,000 Hispanic students were misclassified to a lower reading comprehension level due to relatability.*

Working papers

“Vertical integration and cream skimming of profitable referrals: The case of hospital-owned skilled nursing facilities” with David Cutler, Leemore Dafny, David Grabowski, Christopher Ody

Accepted, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* (forthcoming)

Work In Progress

“When wages rise, who goes to college? Impact of labor market shocks on college attendance”

“Vaccine effectiveness and take-up: Evidence from seasonal influenza vaccination”

“Teaching at the right mood: Emotions and student learning” with Dev Patel

Teaching and Service

Brown University

Instructor, Economics 1960: Honors Tutorial, Fall 2025

Teaching assistant

Economics 1360: Health Economics, Fall 2024

Economics 1070: Race, Crime, and Punishment in America, Spring 2022

Honors and Fellowships

Departmental graduate teaching award, Brown University, 2025

Departmental fellowship, 2025

Graduate fellowship (NIA T32), National Bureau of Economic Research, 2023–2024

Population Studies and Training Center fellowship (NICHD T32), Brown University, 2022–2023

Susan R. Kamins 1982 fellowship, Brown University, 2020–2021

Research grants

Graduate research grant, American Institute for Boys and Men, 2025–2027

Doctoral Student Seed Funding, Annenberg Institute, Brown University, 2025, 2024

Research grants, Orlando Bravo Center for Economic Research, Brown University, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021

Various grants, PSTC, Brown University, 2023, 2022

Presentations

Population Association of America (PAA)^{*}, Society of Labor Economics[†], Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness^{*}, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management[†], 2024

PAA^{*}, 2023

ASSA/AEA[†], 2022

FTC Microeconomics[†], 2020

presenter^{}, co-author[†]*

Research experience

Brown University, Providence, RI

Research assistant to Neil Thakral, May 2021–Dec. 2021, May 2022–Aug. 2022

National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, MA

Research assistant, Sept. 2018–Dec. 2021

Advisors: David Cutler, Leemore Dafny, David Grabowski, and Christopher Ody

Harvard Business School, Boston, MA

Research assistant to Leemore Dafny, July 2019–Aug. 2020

Other

Language: English (native), Korean (fluent)

Technical: Stata, R, Python, Matlab, Unix, Tableau, L^AT_EX

Citizenship: United States