Robert Martin Winslow

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Education

2024	Ph.D. in Economics, University of Minnesota
	Committee: Fatih Guvenen, Kjetil Storesletten, Thomas J. Holmes

2016 **B.S. in Mathematics**, University of Kansas Graduation with highest distinction Minor-equivalent in Computer Engineering

Research Interests

Unemployment, Social Networks, Machine Learning

Appointments

2024 -	Assistant Professor of Economics, Beacom School of Business, University of South Dakota
2019 - 2024	Graduate Instructor, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota
2017 - 2019	Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota

Honors and Awards

2023	Winner, Machine Learning Competition, Minnesota Big Data Institute (MEBDI), University of Minnesota
2021 - 2024	Distinguished Instructor, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota
2021 - 2024	Distinguished Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota

Works in Progress

"How much did Bonus Unemployment Insurance Payments During the COVID Pandemic Depress Aggregate Employment?" (Job Market Paper)

"Combining Behavioral Choice with a Branching Process Model of Disease"

Publications

2019 "Graph 2-Rankings" with Jordan Almeter, Samet Demircan, Andrew Kallmeyer, and Kevin G. Milans in *Graphs* and *Combinatorics*

Presentations

2024 Conference on Network Science and Economics (Minneapolis, MN) Mountain Plains Business Conference (Vermillion, SD) Missouri Valley Economics Association Conference (Kansas City, MO)

Teaching

University of South Dakota:

Spring 2025Principles of Microeconomics, Intermediate MacroeconomicsFall 2024Principles of Macroeconomics

University of Minnesota:

2019 – 2024 Intermediate Macroeconomics
 2017 – 2019 Teaching Assistant for Principles of Microeconomics and Principles of Macroeconomics

Service

Referee: Macroeconomic Dynamics

University of South Dakota:

2024 - MBA Assessment Committee

Skills

ProgrammingPython, Javascript, SQL, Julia, MatlabLanguagesEnglish (native), Chinese (beginner)

Paper Abstracts

"How much did Bonus Unemployment Insurance Payments During the COVID Pandemic Depress Aggregate Employment?" (Job Market Paper)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit recipients rose to unprecedented levels. This spike in benefits was especially dramatic for the number of recipients collecting partial benefits—UI benefits earned while working part time—which doubled from around 8% of total UI recipients pre-pandemic to 16% in early 2021. This rise coincided with some key temporary changes to the UI program, most prominently the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), which paid a fixed \$600 bonus to all workers collecting any amount of UI benefits. The FPUC induced a substantial cliff in disposable income for many workers, such that returning to full-time or near-full-time work would result in a loss of hundreds of dollars of weekly income, compared to working part-time just under the threshold required to collect benefits. This paper seeks to understand the effect this program had on aggregate employment and underemployment. To that end, I construct a job search model with moral hazard in which workers have the option to work part-time (even when they have full time job offers) and collect partial UI benefits. I calibrate this model to the pre-pandemic and then study the effects during the pandemic, using it to quantify the extent to which this newly introduced incentive discouraged workers from returning to full-time work.

"Combining Behavioral Choice with a Branching Process Model of Disease"

Whether a disease outbreak dies out early or expands into a full blown- epidemic depends not only on the average spread of disease, but also on the variation between individuals in how likely they are to spread the disease to others. The source of this variation is, in part, due to the fact that different people have differing levels of contact with others. In a behavioral model in which people choose the level of contact they have with others in response to new of disease outbreak, highly connected people respond qualitatively different from people with few social connections. When transmissibility is high, highly connected people can become fatalistic.

Professional References

Prof. Fatih Guvenen, University of Minnesota, guvenen@umn.edu, fatihguvenen@gmail.com
Prof. Kjetil Storesletten, University of Minnesota, kstoresl@umn.edu
Prof. Thomas J. Holmes, University of Minnesota, holmes@umn.edu