Christopher Almacen

Department of Economics, Arizona State University
501 E. Orange St., Tempe, AZ 85281

calmacen@asu.edu

Education

Ph.D. Economics, Arizona State University *May 2027 (Expected)*
M.S. Quantitative Economics, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo *May 2021*
B.S. Economics, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo *May 2020*

Research Fields

Microeconomic theory, Mechanism Design, Contract Theory, Health Economics

Work in Progress

Incentivizing Exploration and Stopping
We study a continuous-time principal-agent model where an agent controls whether and when to take on a risky project, and a principal would like to acquire more information about the project's value. The principal commits to dynamically designing experiments subject to the agent's limited commitment and flexibility to gather information. Our main result states that there is an optimal solution where the principal acquires information via a Poisson process, and the stopping rule is to halt after the first confirmatory signal. While the principal wishes to balance the experiment's frequency and precision of breakthroughs, the agent's lack of commitment may distort this trade-off.

More Dependence and Correlation *with Hector Chade*
We study a principal multi-agent model with moral hazard to investigate a suitable notion of dependence over agents' stochastic outputs. We use this notion to analyze the following comparative statics question: how does an increase in dependence affect the principal's expected profit? We provide two broad cases where we show that the principal prefers more dependent outputs. These questions are theoretically challenging because more dependent outputs need not imply more informative ones. Our results also shed light on how organizations can optimally sort agents in teams through the dependence structure.

How Clinicians' Decisions Affect Recipient Life-Years from Transplantation (LYFT)
with Tomas Larroucau, Ellen Green, E Glenn Dutcher, Jesse D Schold, and Darren Stewart
Within the allocation of deceased donor kidneys, clinicians play a key role in making acceptance decisions on behalf of recipients in the waitlist. However, as the literature documents, it is unclear why there is substantial clinician-level variation in decisions, what channels drive it, and how it impacts recipients' survival outcomes. Using administrative data, this paper studies these questions to evaluate the effect of clinicians' decisions on recipient life-years from transplantation (LYFT). We exploit the exogenous variation of on-call data to identify clinician-specific unobservables which induce selection on both their acceptance decisions and each recipient's survival outcomes. We build a structural

model of clinician's acceptance decisions which reflect arbitrary correlation structure between recipient, donor, clinician, and match-specific unobservables. Our goal is to estimate the model and conduct counterfactual exercises to assess how several types of clinicians affect assignment outcomes.

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Ellen Green — *Summer 2024 – Current*
Research Assistant, Hector Chade — *Summer 2023, 2024*

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics — *Summer 2024*
Teacher Assistant, Ph.D. Microeconomics — *Fall 2023, Spring 2024*
Teacher Assistant, Honors Microeconomics — *Fall 2022*

Conferences, Workshops, and Summer Schools

2026 Arizona State University, 15th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) *(Upcoming)*
2025 Arizona State University
2024 Arizona State University, NU-Kellog Summer School *(Attended)*

Other Information

Programming Skills Python, R, Stata, LaTeX
Work Authorization U.S. Citizen

References

Hector Chade (Advisor)
Rondthaler Professor of Economics
Arizona State University
hector.chade@asu.edu

Mark Whitmeyer
Assistant Professor
Arizona State University
mark.whitmeyer@asu.edu

Ilia Krasikov
Assistant Professor
Arizona State University
krasikovis.main@gmail.com

Ellen Green
Associate Professor
Arizona State University
egreen7@asu.edu