TAYLOR J. WEIDMAN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Pittsburgh   2024
  Committee. Richard Van Weelden (co-chair), Osea Giuntella (co-chair), Alistair Wilson, Dan Jones
  Thesis Title. Homophily Turnout: Network Effects and Voter Behavior
M.S. Economics, Iowa State University   2016
  Thesis Committee. Elizabeth Hoffman (chair), David Frankel, Ulrike Genschel
  Thesis Title. Repeated Anonymous Behavior: Lab and MTurk Trust and Trustworthiness
B.A. Economics, Environmental Sustainability, Eastern Mennonite University   2013
  Advisors. Chris Gingrich, Jim Yoder, Gloria Rhodes

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Teaching Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh	Fall 2024 -
Visiting Lecturer, University of Pittsburgh	2023 - 2024
Visiting Instructor, University of Richmond	2022 - 2023

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Political Economy, Public Economics, Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics, Urban Economics

PUBLISHED WORKS

Testing Models of Strategic Uncertainty: Equilibrium Selection in Repeated Games (with Marta Beczoń, Emanuel Vespa, and Alistair Wilson). **Journal of the European Economic Association**, 23.2 (2025): 784-814
  tl;dr. An index using the notion of risk dominance organizes cooperation across social dilemmas in the lab.

WORKING PAPERS

Homophily Turnout: Network Effects and Voter Behavior
  tl;dr. Voters increase their turnout after a new same-party voter moves in next door.

Panel Nearest Neighbors: A New Algorithm Applied to a Realigning Electorate
  tl;dr. Time-consistent neighborhoods resolve the tradeoff between panels and spacial nearest neighbors.

Well Excuse Me! Replicating and Connecting Excuse-Seeking Behaviors (with B. Ahumada, Y. Chen, N. Gupta, K. Hyde, M. Lepper, W. Mathews, N. Silveus, L. Vesterlund, A. Wilson, K. P. Winichakul, and L. Zhou).
  tl;dr. Three excuse-seeking behaviors replicate but show no relationship across domains.

Backfitting and Adaptive Lasso: an Algorithm Combining Gauss Sediel and Gauss Jacob (with Ning Zhang)
  tl;dr. An algorithm that improves estimates of sparse additive models using adaptive lasso and kernel estimators.

COURSES TAUGHT

Teaching Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh	Academic Year 2024-2025

Intro Microeconomic Theory (large lecture, F)
Economic Data Analysis (F,S)

Visiting Lecturer, University of Pittsburgh   Academic Year 2023-2024

Intermediate Microeconomics (F,S)
Intro Microeconomic Theory (large lecture,F)
Game Theory Principles (S)

Visiting Instructor, University of Richmond   Academic Year 2022-2023

Intro Microeconomic Theory (F,S)

Summer Teaching Mentor, University of Pittsburgh   Summer 2022

Instructor, Honors Introduction to Microeconomics *(hybrid)*   Fall 2021

Average Teaching Effectiveness: 4.6 / 5

Instructor, Intermediate Microeconomics *(hybrid)*   Summer 2021

Average Teaching Effectiveness: 4.6 / 5

Instructor, Introduction to Microeconomics *(remote)*   Summer 2020

Average Teaching Effectiveness: 4.6 / 5

Teaching Fellow, Introduction to Microeconomics

Average Teaching Effectiveness

4.6 / 5 with Neal Becker (remote)	Spring 2021
4.0 / 5 with Carey Treado (remote)	Fall 2020
4.5 / 5 with Kevin Shaver (partially remote)	Spring 2020
4.6 / 5 with Neal Becker	Fall 2019
4.5 / 5 with Neal Becker	Spring 2019
4.4 / 5 with Margarita Zabelina	Fall 2018

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Microeconomics

Average Teaching Effectiveness

4.4 / 5 with with Margarita Zabelina	Spring 2018
3.8 / 5 with with Margarita Zabelina	Fall 2017

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Research Assistant, Felipe Augusto De Araujo	Spring 2021

Developing software to run remote and in-lab behavioral experiments

Research Assistant, Alistair Wilson	Summer 2020

Developing software to run remote behavioral experiments

Research Assistant, David Huffman & David Danz	Spring 2018

Developing software and running experiments on risky behavior

Research Assistant, Elizabeth Hoffman, ISU Department of Economics	2015 - 2016

Experimentally testing individual's behavior under risk with language effects

Research Assistant, Chad Hart, ISU Department of Economics	2014 - 2015

Developing weekly grain basis indicators for the USDA

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Python	*everything from data processing to machine learning to automation*	2012 - Current
Esri ArcGIS	*inspecting spatial data and one-off operations*	2013 - Current
Linux	*filesystems and commands*	2012 - Current
R	*econometrics and visualizations*	2014 - Current
Stata	*econometrics*	2014 - Current
Pandas	*panel data operations in python*	2015 - Current
oTree	*deploy experiments in laboratory and virtual settings*	2016 - Current
Heroku	*deploy web applications*	2016 - Current

GitHub	*replication files and public code repository*	2016 - Current
JupyterLab	*python IDE, markdown editor, and LATEXcompiler*	2017 - Current
GeoPandas	*fast and flexible geographic panel data in python*	2017 - Current
Javascript	*web application development*	2018 - Current
CSS, HTML	*front-end web development*	2018 - Current
PostgreSQL	*database management*	2020 - Current
Manim	*mathematical animation engine for explainer videos in python*	2020 - Current
DaVinci Resolve	*editor for explainer and teaching videos*	2020 - Current
Google Earth Pro	*visualizing and animating geographic data*	2022 - Current
Julia	*mathematical and statistical modeling*	2022 - Current
GitHub Copilot	*GPT-based LLM coding support*	2023 - Current

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellowship	Spring 2022
Department of Economics Summer Fellowship	Summer 2018
Arts & Sciences GSO Econ Representative	2017 - 2018
Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship	2016 - 2017
Student Government Association, Senator	Spring 2012
Rodney Longacer Business Scholarship	Fall 2011
Brubaker Business Scholarship	Spring 2011
Presidential Scholarship	2009 - 2013

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Membership: American Economic Association, European Economic Association, Economic Science Association

Mentorship: 2nd Year Ph.D. Student Mentor, 2018 - 2020

Students Recommended: Emma Stachelek *(Spring 2021)*, Shivam Patolia *(Spring 2021)*, Tianren Wang *(Fall 2021)*, Tatiana Sinelnikova *(Spring 2022)*, Drew Ardise *(Spring 2023)*, Isobel Cunningham *(Spring 2023)*, James Krzywda *(Spring 2023)*, Nathan Amaro *(Spring 2023)*, William Weidner *(Spring 2023)*, Boxuan Li *(Spring 2023)*

SELECTED STUDENT EVALUATIONS

Fall 2023 - *Everything was great, taylor is an awesome prof. Definitely one of the best econ teachers I've had so far by a long shot and the class setup made learning concepts easy.*

Fall 2023 - *I like the lecture flow, how it starts with a question and we get an answer by the end of the class.*

Fall 2023 - *The professor was very nice and approachable, and managed to make a 200 person lecture engaging.*

Fall 2023 - *All of the professor's slideshows and documents were super neat and easy to follow, and he encouraged questions during lecture. I chose to become an economics major because of this class!*

Fall 2023 - *I liked all the different way the professor used students in his examples. For example, we did this one simulation with buyers and sellers which did not only keep me engaged, but really understand the material as well.*

Fall 2023 - *I like the way the instructor liked the course. It is very easy to enjoy a class when a professor can enjoy what they are teaching.*

Fall 2023 - *I loved the grading system that was weighted to account/set up for student success. I also loved how accessible and caring Professor Weidman was–it made for a great class, and I learned a lot!*

Fall 2023 - *I like the lecture flow, how it starts with a question and we get an answer by the end of the class.*

Fall 2023 - *I couldn't have gotten a better professor if I tried. Taylor was soooo incredible. So easy to learn from and engaging.*

Fall 2023 - *Taylor's super inclusive attitude and focus on actually understanding the curriculum.*

Fall 2023 - *Taylor was very engaging and always knew how to get the audience to listen.*

Fall 2023 - *He encourages people to answer questions by handing out candy to wrong answers.*

Fall 2023 - *Taylor is a great professor who cares about student success –– I appreciate the "remind me of your name" question especially in a larger lecture.*

Fall 2023 - *I liked the inclusive and friendly atmosphere Taylor brought to the lecture hall.*

Fall 2023 - *I liked the website Dr. Weidman provided to us. It was very organized and included all the necessary study materials to set us up for success.*

Fall 2023 - *I liked how the class was very neat and organized and the lecture video visuals presented in class were excellent.*

Fall 2023 - *I like the way the grading was structured. It allowed kids to learn through their mistakes.*

Fall 2023 - *I thought it was very cool how he was able to relate everything to Harry Potter (I watched all of the movies because of this).*

Fall 2023 - *I likes how the course was structured. Dividing it into sections instead of chapters really helped me focus on the important topics and ideas instead of focusing on every single thing that was in the book. Also, the demos, vignettes, and extra exercises the Professor provided really helped solidify the ideas that he taught us, and having a video that explains the demos in a simple well structured way was so helpful, as was having the solutions to all of the exercises. Even the homework problems were helpful and contributed to my overall understanding of the materials.*

Spring 2023 - *His teaching style is so good.*

Spring 2023 - *A good professor can take a complex subject and make it approachable to students, and that is exactly what he did.*

Spring 2023 - *Very kind. Always available. Passionate.*

Spring 2023 - *He can read the room well and keeps the class interested, even though we were a 9am class.*

Fall 2022 - *Taylor is a very approachable, knowledgeable teacher who successfully makes class interesting, while still giving a lot of information. Taylor has been one of my favorite teachers since he is able to connect with his students, and always gives the class a sense of community.*

Fall 2022 - *Taylor does an amazing job engaging his students day in and day out. Whether its from unique scenarios, or simulations, Taylor makes every class not only very intriguing, but also super fun for the learners.*

Fall 2021 - *Was very clear what was on exams with his several explanation videos for the exams, homework, etc. Made the testing environment relaxed which caused me, personally, to focus and thoroughly enjoy the material. There was no rush when getting through the material. The classroom's atmosphere was not competitive in nature but rather collaborative because of all of the support and resources Taylor gave us. Taylor Weidman demonstrated what education should really be about.*

Fall 2021 - *How the class was structured, as well as how forgiving the grading system was. It set the students up to focus on learning the content, and not just to get to a certain grade.*

Fall 2021 - *I appreciated the set–up of the class– his modules were neat and purposeful. I was never confused about resources he attached. I always felt prepared for the exams and that he never wanted us to stress. I felt that he genuinely cared about the class material, but us as humans as well.*

Fall 2021 - *I loved the setup of the course. Each week would start off with watching tutorials, followed by notes, homework, and a miniexam. I really appreciated the lack of surprises, so I always knew what to expect for the workload going into the week. I also loved the demos that were paired with the homeworks and miniexams.*

Fall 2021 - *Taylor is a fantastic instructor. He kindly provides custom made tutorial videos and demos which make learning problem sets a breeze. I really enjoyed this class.*

Fall 2020 - *I liked Taylor's method of instruction. He significantly lightened the mood of a potentially dry subject.*

Fall 2020 - *He always seemed happy to be there– he made the most connections between his students in a virtual platform, he seemed to genuinely care.*

Summer 2020 - *The lectures were less like lectures and more like informational videos, they were condensed from traditional lectures and included helpful animations which aided the explanation of certain concepts.*

Spring 2020 - *Taylor was super funny and the recitations always had a super casual atmosphere. It's easier to pay attention and remember stuff when you're having fun doing it.*

Spring 2020 - *This is probably the most helpful recitation I've ever had in college. I really like the chill environment Taylor created with his sense of humor, but we're also productive at the same time. Taylor was really helpful with explaining the concepts as well. I also enjoyed Taylor's review session before the exam! It was really helpful and totally worth it!*

Spring 2020 - *He was very active in recitation and you could tell that he cared about what he was teaching.*

Fall 2019 - *Taylor Weidman was the best part. Excellent teacher and loves economics.*

Fall 2019 - *He is a great teacher and really good at explaining things slowly.*

Summer 2019 - *Has a great sense of humor and is very good at explaining difficult concepts.*

Spring 2019 - *bring snacks maybe?*

Fall 2018 - *Taylor was the best TA I have ever had for any class. Always prepared, Always enthusiastic (even if we weren't sometimes), always ready to answer any question. He is single–handedly, one of the greatest people I have ever met. Taylor, if you are reading this, I am convinced my life is better for having met you, I am not joking. Thank you so much for a great semester.*

Spring 2018 - *He learned everybody's names and cracked funny dad jokes constantly. I have noticed that usually students tend to be very disrespectful towards TAs. However, because the TA was so respectful and cared sincerely about his teaching, all the students in the class respected him as well.*

Spring 2018 - *I would not be doing as well in ECON 0100 if it was not for this recitation instructor.*

Spring 2018 - *I can't really comment because I did not really attend the recitation. However, Taylor Weidman definitely seems to be prepared and active. I get a lot of emails from him and sometimes study guides too. He does really seem helpful.*