

## **Application for NBER Economics of Digitization Tutorial**

### **Contact Information**

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### **Course of Study**

I am a J.D./Ph.D. student. I am studying law at Stanford Law School and Business and Public Policy at the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. I am currently in residence at UC-Berkeley as a third-year graduate student, and have completed one year of law-related coursework at Stanford. At UC-Berkeley, I have completed the standard graduate microeconomic and econometric theory sequence. Moreover, I have also completed the graduate managerial economics sequence at the Haas School of Business. This includes a core course in innovation (“Innovation and Corporate Strategy”), which was co-taught by Lee Fleming, Nicholas Economides, and David Teece. I have also completed field coursework in contract theory and mechanism design, the economics of institutions, and development economics. When I return to Stanford, I will be completing coursework in intellectual property.

I am in the process of creating a dissertation prospectus at UC Berkeley. My main advisors at this point are Professors Steve Tadelis and Noam Yuchtman.

### **Research Interests/Projects**

I am interested in conducting research at the intersection of technological innovation and economic development. One particular interest is how technological progress, including the expansion of digital technology, impacts historically marginalized communities, both domestically and internationally. I am particularly interested in potential social costs and benefits of digitization that have not been previously explored. For example, I am in the very early stages of analyzing whether expanded access to (lower-cost) internet has an effect on crime rates in low-income areas in the United States. There are a few possible mechanisms through which increased internet use may affect criminal behavior. For example, access to the internet may provide criminally prone individuals an alternative to committing a violent offense. Thus, broadband expansion could have the positive externality of reducing crime. As an initial exploration, I am compiling data on high-speed Internet deployment from the Federal Communications Commission, as well as county-level data on several types of violent and property crimes. However, I would like to expand my knowledge of research on the economics of digitization. My coursework with Professors Fleming and Economides were only my introduction into this field.

I also have ongoing or completed projects in other fields. In one working paper, I study the role that political competition plays in the types of municipal public debt contracts issued by local governments. This paper was initially written for a class in contract theory taught by Steve Tadelis. In another paper, I study the effect that political representation has on the incidence of caste-related violence. Finally, I have also previously studied the role of permissive gun-carrying laws on crime with John J. Donohue (Stanford Law School) and Alex Zhang (Johns Hopkins University Department of Economics). The results of this 2011 study are published in the *American Law and Economic Review*. I also completed a review article on the topic. I have included the citations for reference below.

### **Publications**

“The Impact of Right-to-Carry Laws and the NRC Report: Lessons for Empirical Evaluation of Law and Policy,” *American Law and Economics Review*, Vol.13: No. 2, Fall 2011, pp 565-631 (with John J. Donohue, III and Alex Zhang).

“Flaws in the ‘More Guns, Less Crime’ Thesis” (2012), Invited contribution in *Guns in American Society* (with John J. Donohue, III).