

Name: Sarah H. Bana, Ph.D. Student in Economics

Institution: University of California, Santa Barbara

Email: sarah.bana@gmail.com

Phone: 626.616.0795

Status: 3rd Year Student- I plan to advance by Spring 2016 and graduate Spring 2018.

Fields: Labor, Econometrics, Macroeconomics

Relevant Coursework: Search and Matching, Labor Economics, Wage Structure, Econometric Theory, Bayesian Econometrics, and Stochastic Processes.

Research Focus: J24 - Human Capital/Skills/Occupation Choice/Labor Productivity

Research Interests: I am interested in understanding job search and the labor market in the presence of networking websites such as LinkedIn. From a searcher's perspective, networking websites decrease the cost of informal on-the-job search by allowing them to connect with people and job postings. They simultaneously increase the amount of information an applicant has about careers and career paths, potentially increasing the quality of matches. Digitization gives us insight into previously unobserved on-the-job search behavior.

I am currently working on a project understanding the impact of displaced workers' occupation changes on wage. Displaced workers suffer significantly as a result of displacement. They are also an important group of workers to study because in many ways, they were just unlucky relative to their peers. One interesting fact is that displaced workers who stay in the same occupation after displacement experience only a 6% drop in weekly earnings, compared to an 18% drop among those who switch occupations (Kambourov and Manovskii, 2009).

One key consideration is that displaced workers' short-run job prospects may be limited to their local labor market, which is a constraint that may be changing as a result of digitization. Recent literature shows the unemployment rate in the area upon graduation from college is a determinant of wages (Oreopolous, von Wachter and Heisz, 2012; Altonji, Kahn and Speer, 2013). Displaced workers are similar to college graduates in that they have little control in the timing of job search. I use a Bartik instrument, which controls for endogeneity in local labor market conditions. If local labor market conditions play a similar role in displaced workers' employment prospects as they do for recent college graduates, we might see an increase in the number of displaced workers changing occupations in poor local labor market conditions. I find preliminary evidence that the probability of occupation change increases as employment in the state decreases. I plan on dissecting these changes in occupation to see whether evidence of increasingly global labor markets may be correlated with increasing digitization.