

Will S. Dobbie

Contact Information

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Appointments

Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School, 2019 – present
Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, Princeton University, 2013 – 2019

Visiting Appointments

Visiting Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, Spring 2019
Visiting Assistant Professor, Columbia Graduate School of Business, Fall 2018
Visiting Assistant Professor, Harvard Kennedy School, 2015 – 2016

Professional Activities and Affiliations

Editor, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2021 – present
Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2019 – present
Research Affiliate, CESifo, 2017 – present
Affiliate, Jameel Poverty Action Lab, 2017 – present
Research Fellow, IZA Institute of Labor Economics, 2016 – present
Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2014 – 2019

Education

Ph.D. in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School, 2013
M.A. in Economics, University of Washington, 2007
B.A. in Economics, Kalamazoo College, 2004

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Increasing the Demand for Workers with a Criminal Record, with Zoë Cullen and Mitchell Hoffman, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 138(1): 103-150, 2023.
2. Measuring Racial Discrimination in Bail Decisions, with David Arnold and Peter Hull, *American Economic Review*, 112(9): 2992-3038, 2022.
3. Measuring Bias in Consumer Lending, with Andres Liberman, Daniel Paravisini, and Vikram Pathania, *Review of Economic Studies*, 88(6): 2799-2832, 2021.
4. Bad Credit, No Problem? Credit and Labor Market Consequences of Bad Credit Reports, with Paul Goldsmith-Pinkham, Neale Mahoney, and Jae Song, *Journal of Finance*, 75(5): 2377-2419, 2020.
5. Charter Schools and Labor Market Outcomes, with Roland Fryer, *Journal of Labor Economics*, 38(4): 915-957, 2020.
6. Targeted Debt Relief and the Origins of Financial Distress: Experimental Evidence from Distressed Credit Card Borrowers, with Jae Song, *American Economic Review*, 110(4): 984-1018, 2020.

7. The Causes and Consequences of Test Score Manipulation: Evidence from the New York Regents Examinations, with Thomas Dee, Brian Jacob, and Jonah Rockoff, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 11(3): 382-423, 2019.
8. Racial Bias in Bail Decisions, with David Arnold and Crystal Yang, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 133(4): 1885-1932, 2018.
9. The Effects of Pre-Trial Detention on Conviction, Future Crime, and Employment: Evidence from Randomly Assigned Judges, with Jacob Goldin and Crystal Yang, *American Economic Review*, 108(2): 201-240, 2018.
10. Consumer Bankruptcy and Financial Health, with Paul Goldsmith-Pinkham and Crystal Yang, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 99(5): 853-869, 2017.
11. The Medium-Term Impacts of High-Achieving Charter Schools, with Roland Fryer, *Journal of Political Economy*, 123(5): 985-1037, 2015.
12. Debt Relief and Debtor Outcomes: Measuring the Effects of Consumer Bankruptcy Protection, with Jae Song, *American Economic Review*, 105(3): 1272-1311, 2015.
13. The Impact of Voluntary Youth Service on Future Outcomes: Evidence from Teach For America, with Roland Fryer, *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*, 15(3): 1031-1066, 2015.
14. The Impact of Attending a School with High-Achieving Peers: Evidence from the New York City Exam Schools, with Roland Fryer, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 6(3): 58-75, 2014.
15. Getting Beneath the Veil of Effective Schools: Evidence from New York City, with Roland Fryer, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 4(5): 28-60, 2013.
16. Information Asymmetries in Consumer Lending: Evidence from Payday Lending, with Paige Marta Skiba, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 4(5): 256-258, 2013.
17. Are High-Quality Schools Enough to Increase Achievement Among the Poor? Evidence from the Harlem Children's Zone, with Roland Fryer, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 3(3): 158-187, 2011.

Other Publications

1. The Economic Costs of Pretrial Detention, with Crystal Yang, *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 2021.
2. The US Pretrial System: Balancing Individual Rights and Public Interests, with Crystal Yang, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 35(4): 49-70, 2021.
3. Measuring Racial Discrimination in Algorithms, with David Arnold and Peter Hull, *American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings*, 111: 49-54, 2021.
4. Equal Protection under Algorithms: A New Statistical and Legal Framework, with Crystal Yang, *Michigan Law Review*, 119(2): 291-396, 2020.
5. Proposals for Improving the U.S. Pre-Trial System, with Crystal Yang, *The Hamilton Project*, 2019.

Working Papers and Works in Progress

1. Macroeconomic Effects of Debt Relief: Consumer Bankruptcy Protections in the Great Recession, with Adrien Auclert and Paul Goldsmith-Pinkham, revise and resubmit at *American Economic Review*.
2. Algorithmic Recommendations and Human Discretion, with Victoria Angelova and Crystal Yang.
3. Growing Class Gaps, Shrinking Race Gaps: Economic and Sociological Mechanisms Underlying Recent Trends in Intergenerational Mobility, with Raj Chetty, Benjamin Goldman, Sonja Porter, and Crystal Yang.

Research Grants

1. National Science Foundation, Measuring and Reducing Algorithmic Discrimination with Quasi-Experimental Data, with David Arnold and Peter Hull, 2021
2. Jameel Poverty Action Lab, Reducing Racial Disparities in Bail Decisions: An Experiment on Public Accountability and Feedback in Texas, with Crystal Yang, 2020
3. William T. Grant, Reducing Racial Disparities in Bail Decisions: An Experiment on Public Accountability and Feedback in Texas, with Crystal Yang, 2020
4. Russell Sage Foundation, Reducing Racial Disparities in Bail Decisions, with Crystal Yang, 2020
5. Jameel Poverty Action Lab, Reducing Racial Disparities in Bail Decisions, with Crystal Yang, 2020
6. Jameel Poverty Action Lab, Labor Demand for Workers with a Criminal Conviction, with Zoe Cullen and Mitch Hoffman, 2019-2021
7. Laura and John Arnold Foundation, Experimental Evidence on Reducing Problem Behaviors and Improving Employability, with David Deming and Sara Heller, 2017-2019
8. Overdeck Innovation Funds at Princeton, Experimental Evidence on Reducing Problem Behaviors and Improving Employability, with David Deming and Sara Heller, 2017-2019
9. Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Measuring the Effects of Debt Relief and Debt Restructuring, 2014-2016

Awards, Honors, and Fellowships

Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, 2019-2021
Distinguished CESifo Affiliate Award, 2017
Jonathan Edwards Bicentennial Preceptorship, Princeton University, 2016-2018
W.E. Upjohn Institute Dissertation Award for best dissertation on employment, 2013
Terence M. Considine Fellowship in Law and Economics, Harvard University, 2012-2013
Taubman Center for State and Local Government Fellowship, Harvard University, 2012-2013
Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Aging and Health Economics, NBER, 2009-2010
Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Education Economics, Harvard EdLabs, 2008-2013
Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, Harvard University, 2008-2013

Graduate Students

Thesis committee member and/or job market letter writer. Initial placement in parentheses.

1. John Klopfer (United States Naval Academy), 2017
2. Felipe Goncalves (University of California, Los Angeles), 2018
3. Daniel Herbst (University of Arizona), 2018
4. Jessica Brown (University of South Carolina), 2019
5. Mingyu Chen (Amazon), 2019
6. Julia Fonseca (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), 2019
7. Steve Mello (Dartmouth University), 2019
8. David Arnold (University of California, San Diego), 2020
9. Blake Heller (Vanderbilt Post-Doc), 2021
10. Isabel Macdonald (University of California, Berkeley Post-Doc), 2021