

IVAN STRAHOF

University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics
Ruttan Hall 217H
1994 Buford Ave.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Email: Strahof@umn.edu
Linkedin: [Linkedin.com/in/IvanStrahof](https://www.linkedin.com/in/IvanStrahof)

SUMMARY

Applied Economics Ph.D. student focused in economic development with research interests in intrahousehold decision-making and organized crime. Experienced in applying causal inference and program evaluation techniques to household and administrative data using statistical packages such as Stata and R. Seeking collaboration and co-authorship on a variety of research agendas.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Applied Economics

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Academic Adviser: Jason Kerwin
Primary Field: Trade and Development
Secondary Field: Labor and Population Economics

Jan 2020 – May 2024 (Expected)

M.S. Applied Economics

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Sept 2018 – May 2022 (Expected)

B.A. Economics and Asian Studies

Bard College

May 2018

WORKING PAPERS

Should I Stay or Should I Go: Unilateral Divorce and Intrahousehold Bargaining in Mexico

Using a decade of household expenditure surveys, I investigate how the adoption of unilateral divorce laws in Mexico affected the distribution of intra-household bargaining power through decisions on family dissolution and on expenditure categories. Exploiting differences in the date of divorce reform by state, I utilize an event study and staggered difference-in-differences framework suggested by Callaway & Sant'Anna (2020). I identify a causal increase in overall divorce rates as well as spending on temptation goods in married families with young children. However, it's unclear whether this is due to an increase or a decrease in the wife's bargaining power.

Are Drug Cartels Essential Workers? COVID and State Capacity in Mexico

I use Google mobility data to investigate if either the state or federal governments of Mexico were able to increase social distancing through various lockdown measures. Using an event study, I find causal evidence that the federal government was much more effective than states in reducing mobility, particularly during the second wave of the pandemic. I then create a triple difference estimator to test whether reported gang presence led to the erosion of state capacity in maintaining the lockdown. In states with large gang memberships the effects of federal policy diminished and, in some cases, reversed.

The Quantity-Quality Tradeoff and Intra-Household Bargaining: Evidence from India

Employing a longitudinal survey of over 40,000 households in India, I look for evidence of the quantity-quality tradeoff in children using stated preferences of both husbands and wives. I differ in my approach by considering household fertility decisions as part of a cooperative bargaining model. I first ask whether improvements in school quality in India affected fertility rates. I then explore two mechanisms: changes in preferences for children by husbands and greater bargaining power for women. Longitudinal data allows me to apply a household matching framework to address concerns that school quality is endogenous to household characteristics.

COMPLETED PAPERS

Transition on the Han: The Agricultural Roots of Development on the Korean Peninsula Bard College Undergraduate Thesis

May 2018

Thesis used cross-sectional administrative data including work harmonizing Japanese language archival sources, agricultural production data, and census data to examine Japan's colonial policies in Korea.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Dairy Margin Coverage Decision Tool

- Helped produce an application that allows dairy producers to run forecasts and historical analyses on coverage payouts by the USDA's Dairy Margin Coverage Program for a variety of enrollment parameters.
- Primarily responsible for calculating updated indemnities and creating a dynamic graph for the historical analysis portion under the supervision of Professor Marin Bozic.
- Created the application using excel VBA and queries to pull data from a database.

Dairy Price Stress Test Tool

- Created an application that allows dairy producers to run various price scenarios for a variety of products.
- Allows users to modify expected annual, quarterly, and monthly prices for products which then generates a matrix of expected prices using a weighting formula and price relations between products.
- Gives access to daily commodity data at a push of a button for producers to quickly update forecasts.
- Created tool using excel VBA and data queries under the supervision of Professor Bozic.

Dairy Revenue Protection Calculator

- Under the supervision of Professor Bozic helped create and update a tool for dairy producers to calculate expected indemnities from enrolling in the USDA's Dairy Revenue Protection.
- Uses queries to pull and reference daily forecast data to provide reliable estimates based on user input.
- Recreated the calculator in MATLAB and used it to run detailed analyses of historic payouts.
- Helped prepare a presentation and trained users at a Fortune 500 company.

Understanding Data and Markets

- Created metadata for agricultural goods from a variety of national statistical offices and U.S. trade data by translating, defining, and categorizing data for uploading to a client database for Professor Bozic.
- Used Microsoft Visual Studio to edit and publish data to a client database.
- Communicated with potential clients to answer questions and provide access to trial accounts.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor in Economics

University of St. Thomas

May 2020 – Present

Principles of Microeconomics (ECON) 252

- Teach distanced accelerated course with both synchronous and asynchronous components.
- Produce my own syllabus and lecture notes.
- Create and grade homework, classwork, and tests.
- Hold regular office hours.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Sept 2020 – May 2020

Applied Economics (APEC) 4481/5481 - Futures and Options Markets (Spring 2021)

APEC 3501 - Agribusiness Finance (Fall 2020)

- Grade all assignments including homework, classwork, exams, projects, and participation.
- Answer student emails on assignments and class logistics.
- Hold online office hours for major assignments.
- Post all class materials on canvas website including assignments, lecture recordings, and PowerPoints.
- Upload lecture recordings to YouTube.

Math and Economics Tutor

Bard Prison Initiative

Oct 2017 - May 2018

- Tutored incarcerated students weekly in algebra, calculus, and principles of economics.

Math Study Room Tutor

Bard College Mathematics Department

Sept 2016 - May 2017

- Tutored students in calculus and statistics with weekly walk-in hours.

Teaching Assistant for ECON 218

Bard College Economics Department

Aug 2017 - Dec 2017

- Collaborated on new class syllabus by researching, proposing, and assembling new readings.
- Met with students to help improve and provide suggestions for class essays.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow

Empire Center for Public Policy; Albany, NY

June 2015 - Aug 2015

- Contacted public agencies to collect and present economic data to resident experts for future publications.
- Graded 80 New York State public websites on transparency and ease of navigation.
- Filed Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests on pensions and followed up with local officials.

Educational Programs Intern

Institute for Humane Studies; Arlington, VA

Jan 2014 - May 2014

- Used Salesforce to organize participant database by merging, instituting protocol, and updating data.
- Composed, assembled, and mailed materials to participants of campus events and advanced seminars.
- Researched outcomes of award recipients of the Institute's academic fellowship grant.
- Implemented new program evaluation survey questions and composed event marketing emails.

Research Intern

Cato Institute; Washington, DC

Sept 2013 - Dec 2013

- Collaborated on topic and researched potential authors for the Nov. 2013 issue of Cato Unbound.
- Reviewed the congressional record and helped write a policy memo for the director of health policy.
- Translated an economic text from Russian into English, which was used in an institute publication.
- Staffed, set-up stage, welcomed attendees, coordinated logistics, and assisted with Q&A for on-site events.

SKILLS:

Excel & Excel VBA (Extensive), Stata (Extensive), ArcGIS (Working), MATLAB (Working), R (Basic), Russian (Native)