

BRIGHAM R. FRANSDEN

frandsen@byu.edu

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

181 Faculty Office Building
Provo, UT 84602
801-422-4049
frandsen@byu.edu
<https://economics.byu.edu/frandsen>

EDUCATION Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2010
Ph.D. Economics
Brigham Young University, 2004
B.S. Physics and Economics (*Summa cum Laude* and University Honors)

CITIZENSHIP USA **GENDER** MALE **DATE OF BIRTH** August 1980

LANGUAGES English (native), Hungarian (fluent)

FIELDS Primary Fields: Labor Economics, Econometrics
Secondary Fields: Health Economics, Public Finance

RELEVANT POSITIONS Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, BYU 2012-present
Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research, Harvard 2010-2012
Research Assistant to Professor Joshua Angrist 2007-2008
Management Consultant, McKinsey & Company 2004-2006

**FELLOWSHIPS,
HONORS, AND
AWARDS** NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$15,000), 2009
MIT Economics Department Graduate Fellowship, 2006-2008
Best Graduate Teaching Assistant, MIT Economics Department, 2009,2010

PUBLICATIONS: “Testing Censoring Point Independence,” accepted, *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*

“Testing Rank Similarity,” with Lars Lefgren, accepted, *Review of Economics and Statistics*

“Public Employee Pensions and Collective Bargaining Rights: Evidence from State and Local Government Finances ,” accepted, *Journal of Law, Economics & Policy*
(continued below)

- PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)**
- “Party Bias in Union Representation Elections: Testing for Manipulation in the Regression Discontinuity Design when the Running Variable is Discrete,”** forthcoming, *Advances in Econometrics* vol. 38
- “Treatment Effects with Censoring and Endogeneity,”** *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, volume 110, issue 512, 2015
- “The Effects of Collective Bargaining Rights on Public Employee Compensation: Evidence from Teachers, Fire Fighters, and Police,”** *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* 69(1) January 2016
- “Impacts of Unionization on Quality and Productivity: Regression Discontinuity Evidence From Nursing Homes,”** *Industrial & Labor Relations Review*. 68(4): 771-806 August 2015 (with Aaron Sojourner, Robert Town, David Grabowski, and Michelle Chen)
- “Structuring Incentives within Organizations: The Case of Accountable Care Organizations,”** *The Journal of Law, Economics, and Organizations* 31 August 2015, with James Rebitzer
- “Care Fragmentation, Quality, and Healthcare Spending among Chronically Ill, Commercially Insured Patients,”** *American Journal of Managed Care*, 21(5):355-362 May 2015 (with Ashish Jha, Karen Joynt, and Jim Rebitzer)
- “Randomization Inference in the Regression Discontinuity Design: An Application to Party Advantages in the U.S. Senate,”** *The Journal of Causal Inference*, 3(1):1-24 March 2015, (with Rocio Titiunik and Matias Cattaneo)
- “Quantile Treatment Effects in the Regression Discontinuity Design,”** *Journal of Econometrics* 168(2) June 2012, with Markus Froelich and Blaise Melly
- “Did Vietnam Veterans Get Sicker in the 1990s? The Complicated Effects of Military Service on Self-Reported Health,”** *Journal of Public Economics* 94(11-12) December 2010, with Joshua Angrist and Stacey Chen
- “Some Variations on Standard Income Measurement Error Models,”** *Journal of Income Distribution*, 2004, with James B. McDonald
- “Acceleration of Free Electrons in a Symmetric Evanescent Wave,”** *Laser Physics*, 2006, with Justin B. Peatross and Scott A. Glasgow
- RESEARCH PAPERS:**
- “The Surprising Impacts of Unionization on Establishments: Evidence from Matched Employer-Employee Data”**
Revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Political Economy*
 Using administrative data matching individual worker earnings to employers in a regression discontinuity design based on close union representation elections, this study presents new evidence on the impacts of unionization on

**RESEARCH
PAPERS
(CONTINUED)**

establishment and worker outcomes. The paper first shows evidence that close union elections are subject to nonrandom selection, with large discontinuities in pre-election characteristics at the majority threshold. Estimates accounting for this selection show, perhaps surprisingly, that unionization significantly and substantially decreases establishment-level payroll, employment, average worker earnings at the establishment, and the probability of establishment survival. Estimates show the decreases in payroll and earnings are driven by union impacts on the composition of workers at unionization establishments, with older and higher-paid workers more likely to leave and younger workers more likely to join or stay. Worker-level effects on the earnings of workers who stay are small. The distinction between the large negative establishment-level effects and small worker-level effects is interpreted in a model of employer and employee selection into union jobs.

“Sticking Points: Common Agency Problems and Contracting in the U.S. Healthcare System” (with Michael Powell and James Rebitzer)
Revise and resubmit at *RAND Journal of Economics*

We propose a “common-agency” model for explaining inefficient contracting in the U.S. healthcare system. In our setting, common agency problems arise when multiple payers seek to motivate a shared provider to invest in improved care coordination. Our approach differs from other common-agency models in that we analyze “sticking points,” i.e. equilibria in which payers coordinate around Pareto dominated contracts that do not offer providers incentives to implement efficient investments. These sticking points offer a straightforward explanation for three long-observed but hard to explain features of the US healthcare system: the ubiquity of fee-for-service contracting arrangements outside of Medicare; problematic care coordination; and the historic reliance on small, single specialty practices rather than larger multi-specialty group practices to deliver care. The common-agency model also provides insights on the effects of policies (such as Accountable Care Organizations) that aim to promote more efficient forms of contracting between payers and providers.

“Causes and Consequences of Fragmented Care Delivery: Theory, Evidence and Public Policy” (with Leila Agha and James Rebitzer)

Fragmented health care occurs when care is spread out across a large number of poorly coordinated providers. We analyze care fragmentation, an important source of inefficiency in the US healthcare system, by combining an economic model of regional practice styles with an empirical study of Medicare enrollees who move across regions. Roughly sixty percent of cross-regional variation in care fragmentation is independent of patients’ clinical needs or preferences for care. A one standard deviation increase in regional fragmentation is associated with a 10% increase in utilization. Our analysis also identifies conditions under which anti-fragmentation policies can improve efficiency.

“Partial Identification of the Distribution of Treatment Effects”

This article develops bounds on the distribution of treatment effects under plausible and testable assumptions on the joint distribution of potential outcomes, namely that potential outcomes are stochastically increasing. We show how to test the empirical restrictions implied by those assumptions. The resulting bounds substantially sharpen the classical bounds based on

RESEARCH PAPERS (CONTINUED) Frechet-Hoeffding limits. We present an application in which we identify bounds on the distribution of effects of attending a Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) charter school on student academic achievement.

“Exact Nonparametric Inference for a Binary Endogenous Regressor”

This paper describes a randomization-based inference procedure for the distribution or quantiles of potential outcomes for a binary treatment and instrument. The method imposes no parametric model for the treatment effect, and remains valid for small n , a weak instrument, or inference on tail quantiles, when conventional large-sample methods break down. The method is illustrated using simulations and data from a randomized trial of college student incentives and services.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES **Referee:**

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics
American Economic Journal: Policy
American Economic Review
Biometrics
Biostatistics
Contemporary Economic Policy
Econometric Theory
Economic Inquiry
Economic Journal
Economics of Education Review
Empirical Economics
Health Affairs
Industrial and Labor Relations Review
Industrial Relations
International Journal of Health Economics and Management
Journal of Applied Econometrics
Journal of Business & Economic Statistics
Journal of Econometrics
Journal of Experimental Political Science
Journal of Health Economics
Journal of Human Resources
Journal of Labor Economics
Journal of Political Economy
Journal of Public Economics
Journal of the American Statistical Association
Journal of the European Economic Association
Labour
MIT Press
National Science Foundation
Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics
Oxford Economic Papers
Quarterly Journal of Economics
Quarterly Journal of Political Science
Review of Economics and Statistics
Social Science Quarterly

Presentations:

University of Michigan Econometrics Seminar, Ann Arbor, Michigan
 Institute for Economic and Social Research, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China

September 2017
 August 2017

Brookings Institution Municipal Finance Conference, Washington, D.C.	July 2017
University of Utah Entrepreneurship and Strategy Seminar, Salt Lake City, Utah	April 2017
Syracuse University Economics Seminar, Syracuse, New York	April 2017
Public Policy Conference on Solving the Public Pension Crisis, GMU Scalia Law School	December 2016
UC Riverside Economics Seminar, Riverside, California	November 2016
APPAM	November 2016
California Econometrics Conference, Provo, Utah	October 2016
Research Roundtable on Solving the Public Pension Crisis, GMU Scalia Law School	September 2016
University of Utah Economics Seminar, Salt Lake City, Utah	September 2016
Advances in Econometrics Conference, University of Michigan	May 2016
Federal Reserve NYC Microeconomics Seminar, NYC	May 2016
UC Irvine Econometrics Seminar, Irvine	May 2016
UCLA Econometrics Seminar, Los Angeles	April 2016
Columbia University Econometrics Seminar, NYC	October 2015
California Econometrics Conference, USC	September 2015
Econometric Society World Congress, Montreal	August 2015
Western Economic Association Summer Meetings, Honolulu	June 2015
Harvard-MIT Econometrics Seminar, Cambridge	May 2015
University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management Seminar, Minneapolis	May 2015
UC Davis Econometrics Seminar, Davis	May 2015
Econometric Society North American Winter Meetings, Boston	January 2015
AEA Annual Meetings, Boston	January 2015
California Econometrics Conference, Stanford University	September 2014
Econometric Society North American Summer Meetings, University of Minnesota	June 2014
Econometric Society North American Summer Meetings, University of Southern California	June 2013
Conference on Healthcare Markets, Kellogg School of Management, Evanston	May 2013
AEA Annual Meetings, San Diego	January 2013
Haas-Sloan Conference on the Law and Economics of Organizations, UC Berkeley	December 2012
Econometric Society North American Summer Meetings, Northwestern University	June 2012
American Society of Health Economists Annual Meeting, University of Minnesota	June 2012
Northwestern Searle Center Conference on Government Unions in the United States, Chicago	October 2011
Econometric Society North American Summer Meetings, Washington University, St. Louis	June 2011
AEA Annual Meetings, Denver	January 2011
Census Research Data Center Annual Conference, University of Maryland	November 2010
NBER Labor Studies Program Meeting, Cambridge, MA	October 2010
Econometric Society World Congress, Shanghai	August 2010
Society of Labor Economists Annual Meetings, University College London	June 2010
Econometric Society North American Summer Meetings, Boston University	June 2009
Society Of Labor Economists Annual Meetings, Cambridge, MA	May 2009
Census Research Data Center Annual Conference, Duke University	October 2008