

DANIEL SOLON

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EDUCATION

PhD	George Mason University, Economics	Expected May 2023
MA	George Mason University, Economics	December 2020
BS	George Mason University, Economics	December 2015

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Economic Development, Economic History, Public Policy, Econometrics, Macroeconomics.

WORKING PAPERS

[Did The China Shock Lower Covid Vaccination Rates?](#) (Job Market Paper).

“Recent economic and culture shocks have been shown to have effects on social and political outcomes. Here I show that U.S. counties that faced larger economic and cultural shocks within the last 30 years later had lower vaccination rates against Covid-19. The county-level shocks considered here are trade exposure to China, the rise in unemployment from the Great Recession, and rising immigration. In additional 2SLS results, I use trade exposure as an instrument (Che, Lu, Pierce, Schott, and Tao 2022) to show that county-level manufacturing job loss due to trade exposure appears to cause lower county-level vaccination rates. The estimated effects of these shocks on Covid vaccination rates are comparable to traditional explanations of low Covid vaccination rates such as level of education and political affiliation. I suggest that the mechanism these shocks work through is decreased trust.”

[National Origins of State Legislators: Does Where Your State Legislator Come from Effect Economic Growth?](#)

“Cultural and “deep roots” history have been shown to have an affect on Economic growth (Putterman and Weil (2010), Comin Easterly Gong (2010), and Fulford, Petkov & Schiantarelli (2020)). The mechanism of these effects is less studied. Here I create a unique data set of State legislators for each state in the United States from 1900-2000. This data set provides ancestral origin information on the legislators that I then use to assign cultural and deep roots values to. Then I run a Fixed Effects model that keeps the cultural and deep roots scores of counties within a state constant while allowing for changes in the deep roots and culture of its state of government. I do this by using by Fulford, Petkov, and Schiantarelli (2020) measures of counties deep roots and culture. This allows me to look at changes in the deep roots of the public sphere while keeping the private and social spheres are held constant. Doing this allows me to see how counties with similar cultural and deep roots histories are affected by changes in these characteristics among state law makers. My results show that cultural trust and early state history among that state legislators have an influence on a counties economic growth.”

[What About Technology? Technological Adoption History and Economic Growth in United States Counties.](#)

“Deep Roots literature has focused on how distant historical characteristics help explain cross country variations in economic growth. Scholars have also attempted to investigate how these traits affect economic growth in the United States. Recently, Fulford, Petkov, & Schiantarelli developed an ancestry data set for U.S. counties for purposes of assessing the effects of Deep Roots characteristics on economic growth in the U.S. Despite being the most powerful measure in the Deep Roots literature, their paper failed to make use of the measure of technological adoption developed by Comin, Easterly and Gong (2010). In this paper, I take the ancestral data of U.S. counties developed by Fulford, Petkov, & Schiantarelli and combine it with the technological adoption measure by Comin, Easterly and Gong (2010) to create a measure of each county’s ancestral history of technological adoption. I then run a series of fixed effects regressions and demonstrate that technological adoption appears to be the most important Deep Roots and ancestral characteristic effect on economic growth in the US.”

The Deep Roots of Voting Patterns in United States.

“Recently there’s been a growing body of literature on how deep roots cultures effects economic growth and political outcomes in the United States. Ancestral culture appears to be more important for changing political outcomes than its direct effect on economic growth. However, most of these studies on political outcomes have been limited in terms of the time periods they cover. Here I gather data on the voting patterns of every US county from 1880 to 2018 for election of the presidency and house of representatives and see how changes in the ancestral deep roots culture of a county effects voting patterns. My results show that the state history, ancestral trust, and technological adoption rates of a countries population all have positive and highly significant effects on the share of a counties vote that goes to the republican. 1% increases in one of these measures increases republican vote share between .3% and .4%. For comparison, a lag in republican vote share only increases current republican vote share by .5%. This finding is robust to a host of controls including controls for racial categories. I then design a IV model using lagged ancestry and railroad exposure as a second robustness check. The size of the effect remains and is still statistically significant.”

WORKING PROJECTS

The Agricultural Origins of Political participation: The Yeoman Farmer and Modern Political Participation in the United States.

Does Past Innovation Predict Future Innovation: Evidence from U.S. County Demographics and Patent Data.

Ancestry and Voting Record: National Origins of US Congressmen & Senators and How They Voted from 1880-2018.

GRADUATE LECTURER

[Game Theory and Economics of Institutions](#). Fall 2021.

[Economics of Developing Areas](#). Spring 2022.

[Money and Banking](#). Fall 2022.

[Summary of Evaluations](#)

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

Principles of Microeconomics. Fall 2019. Spring & Fall 2020. Spring & Fall 2021. Spring 2022.

Principles of Macroeconomics. Fall 2019. Spring & Fall 2020. Spring & Fall 2021. Spring 2022.

REFERENCES

Garett Jones: Associate Professor of Economics and BB&T Professor for the Study of Capitalism at the Mercatus Center, George Mason University.

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