

Kevin Hunt

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Ph.D. in Economics *Expected May 2025*
M.S. in Economics 2021

University of Rochester

B.S. in Mathematics with Honors 2019
B.A. in Economics with Honors 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Macroeconomics, Public Economics

REFERENCES

John Kennan
Departments of Economics
University of Wisconsin-Madison
jkennan@ssc.wisc.edu

Rasmus Lentz
Department of Economics
University of Wisconsin-Madison
rlentz@ssc.wisc.edu

Corina Mommaerts
Departments of Economics
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Chris Taber
Department of Economics
University of Wisconsin-Madison
ctaber@ssc.wisc.edu

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Employment Contracts for Earnings and Hours”

Abstract: Legal regulations of hours have become increasingly common, yet less is known about how workers’ earnings and hours are set in employment contracts. In this paper, I document that workers commonly report changes in their hours, but the elasticity of their earnings with respect to hours differs depending on whether their explicit contract pays them by the hour or not. To understand these patterns, I develop and estimate a frictional labor market model with implicit contracts motivated by risk-sharing and constrained by limited commitment. Although the model has no explicit hourly and non-hourly contracts, implicit contracts generate a larger earnings elasticity for low-income workers and when turnover is higher as in the data. I find that hours variability plays a quantitatively important role to increase workers’ output, which yields caution to policymakers when restricting hours variability. This is especially true for high-income and long tenure workers who benefit the most from risk-sharing in implicit contracts.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Effect of Bilingual Education on Long-run Student Outcomes” with Hyun Lim

“The Partial Retirement Penalty within and across Firms”

“Gender and Job Displacement” with Natalie Duncombe

POLICY ARTICLE

"Implementation Delays in Pension Retrenchment Reforms" with Huixin Bi and Sarah Zubairy. *Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas Economic Review*, July (2019), 53-70

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<i>Instructor, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	Summer 2023
Computation Camp (4-week summer course for Ph.D. students)	
<i>Head Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	Spring 2021
ECON101, Intro to Microeconomics (Undergrad)	
<i>Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>	Fall 2020
ECON101, Intro to Microeconomics (Undergrad)	
<i>Teaching Assistant, University of Rochester</i>	2017-2019
ECO217, Contract Theory (Undergrad)	
MTH203, Mathematical Statistics (Undergrad)	
STT212, Applied Statistics (Undergrad)	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Fellow, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis	Summer 2024
Thomas J. Sargent Dissertation Fellow, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco	Summer 2024
Research Assistant for Corina Mommaerts, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2021-2023
Research Assistant for Mark Bills, University of Rochester	Fall 2018

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Best Student Paper, Spring Midwest Macro Meeting	2024
Christensen Graduate Fellowship in Empirical Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2024
Douglas W. and Sherry A. Caves Dissertation Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2024
Christensen Scholarship for Empirical Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2023
Summer Research Scholarship, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2022
University Fellowship (2-years), University of Wisconsin-Madison	2019
William Morse Hastings Essay Prize for Best Senior Thesis, University of Rochester	2019

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

2024: Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, North American Summer Meeting of Econometric Society (Vanderbilt), Spring Midwest Macro Meeting (Richmond)

2023: Fall Labor and Finance Group Conference (Chicago Fed)

SERVICE

Research Officer, Wisconsin Economics Graduate Organization, UW-Madison	2021-2023
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TECHNICAL SKILLS

Julia, R, Stata, MATLAB, Python, SQL, LaTeX, Microsoft Office