

Owen M. Zidar

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owenzidar.com

5807 South Woodlawn Avenue, S376 Chicago, IL 60637

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Chicago Booth School of Business (July 2014 – present)

Faculty Research Fellow (Public Economics), National Bureau of Economic Research (July 2014 – present)

EDUCATION:

Ph.D., University of California – Berkeley, Economics, May 2014

B.A., *summa cum laude*, Dartmouth College, Economics (High Honors), May 2008

PAST POSITIONS:

Staff Economist, Council of Economic Advisers (2010-2011)

Analyst, Bain Capital Ventures (2008-2009)

FIELDS OF INTEREST: Public Finance, Labor Economics, Urban Economics, Empirical Macroeconomics

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:

2014	Graduate Student Award for Public Policy Research – UC Berkeley Department of Economics
2013	UC Berkeley Deans Normative Time Fellowship
2013	Burch Center for Tax Policy and Public Finance Fellowship
2012, 2010	Graduate Division Summer Research Grant
2009	Departmental Fellowship, UC Berkeley Economics Department
2008	National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention
2008	Nelson A. Rockefeller Prize in Economics, James O. Freedman Presidential Scholar
2008	Phi Beta Kappa

PAPERS:

“Who Benefits from State Corporate Tax Cuts? A Local Labor Markets Approach with Heterogeneous Firms,” (with Juan Carlos Suárez Serrato)

Abstract: This paper estimates the incidence of state corporate taxes on workers, landowners, and firm owners in a spatial equilibrium model in which corporate taxes affect the location choices of both firms and workers. Heterogeneous, location-specific productivities and preferences determine the mobility of firms and workers, respectively. Owners of monopolistically competitive firms receive economic profits and may bear the incidence of corporate taxes as heterogeneous productivity can make them inframarginal in their location choices. We derive a simple expression for equilibrium incidence as a function of a few estimable parameters. Using variation in state corporate tax rates and apportionment rules, we estimate the reduced form effects of tax changes on firm and worker location decisions, wages, and rental costs. We then use minimum distance methods to recover the parameters that determine equilibrium incidence as a function of these reduced-form effects. In contrast to previous assumptions of infinitely mobile firms and perfectly immobile workers, we find that firms are only approximately twice as mobile as workers over a ten-year period. This fact, along with equilibrium impacts on the housing market, implies that firm owners bear roughly 40% of the incidence, while workers and landowners bear 35% and 25%, respectively. Finally, we derive revenue-maximizing state corporate tax rates and discuss interactions with other local taxes and apportionment formulas.

“Tax Cuts for Whom? Heterogeneous Effects of Income Tax Changes on Growth and Employment”

Abstract: This paper investigates how tax changes for different income groups affect macroeconomic activity. Using historical tax returns from NBER's TAXSIM, I construct a measure of who received Romer & Romer exogenous tax changes. I aggregate these tax changes by income group and relate them to macroeconomic aggregates. National tax changes also generate variation in state taxes that I exploit to test for heterogeneous effects. I find that the negative relationship between tax changes and growth is largely driven by tax changes for lower-income groups and that the effect of tax cuts for the top 10% on employment growth is small.

PAPERS (IN PROGRESS):

“Declining Labor Shares and the Relative Price of Investment: Evidence from State Investment Tax Credits” (with Robert Chirinko and Dan Wilson)

“State Taxes and Spatial Misallocation” (with Pablo Fajgelbaum, Eduardo Morales, and Juan Carlos Suárez Serrato)

“Biased Productivity Growth and Rising Health Expenditures” (with Dominick Bartleme)

“State Corporate Taxes, Firm Mobility, and Innovation Productivity: Evidence from Patent Data” (with Zoe Cullen and Juan Carlos Suárez Serrato)

OTHER WRITING:

“Do Not Abolish the Corporate Tax” *The Washington Post* Wonkblog, 1/21/2014.

“Labs for Testing Fiscal Policy Positions” *The New York Times* Economix, 2/28/2013.

“The Growing Burden of Payroll Taxes” *The New York Times* Economix, 11/28/2012.

“Tax Cuts for Job Creators” *The New York Times* Economix with Laura Tyson, 10/19/2012.

PRESENTATIONS:

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| 2014 | NBER Summer Institute (3 sessions) – Public Economics, Urban, and Macro Public Finance, Oxford Conference on Business Taxation, ZEW, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Princeton University, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Business School, Brown University, The Wharton School of University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Pennsylvania State University |
| 2013 | NBER Summer Institute – Public Economics, National Tax Association – 106 th Annual Conference of Taxation (2 papers), US Department of the Treasury – Office of Tax Analysis, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, All-UC Group/Huntington April Conference |
| 2012 | 23rd Jerusalem Summer School in Economic Theory – Hebrew University, Graduate Economics Mini Symposium (Macroeconomics), Public Finance & Labor Lunch – UC Berkeley |

OTHER INFORMATION:

Citizenship: United States

Last Edited: June 2014