

**Owen M. Zidar**  
[ozidar@berkeley.edu](mailto:ozidar@berkeley.edu)  
[owenzidar.com](http://owenzidar.com)

**HOME ADDRESS:**

Department of Economics  
530 Evans Hall, #3880  
Berkeley, CA 94720-3880  
913-991-7883

**DESIRED RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS:**

**PRIMARY**

Public Finance, Labor Economics, Urban Economics

**SECONDARY**

Macroeconomics, Applied Econometrics

**DISSERTATION TITLE:** “Labs of Democracy: Using Regional Variation to Understand Fiscal Policy Issues”

Expected Date of Completion:	May 2014
Principal Advisor:	Alan Auerbach
Other References:	Emmanuel Saez, Patrick Kline, Yuriy Gorodnichenko

**PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:**

Dartmouth College

**DEGREE**

B.A., *summa cum laude*, ΦBK

**DATE FIELD**

2008 Economics (High Honors)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

*Staff Economist*, Council of Economic Advisers (2010-2011)  
*Analyst*, Bain Capital Ventures (2008-2009)

**RESEARCH:**

Research Assistant to Prof. Enrico Moretti & Patrick Kline, Dept. of Economics, UC Berkeley (2013)  
Research Assistant to Prof. Laura Tyson (2012), Atif Mian (2011) Dept. of Economics, UC Berkeley  
Research Assistant to Prof. Bruce Sacerdote & Prof. Chris Snyder, Dept. of Economics, Dartmouth College (2005-2008)  
Research Assistant (field) to Innovations for Poverty Action (2007)

**TEACHING:**

Graduate Student Instructor, Dept. of Economics, UC Berkeley  
Undergraduate Public Economics (Prof. Saez – Spring 2013), Topics in Economic Research (Prof. Eichengreen – Fall 2012)

**PAPERS:**

“Who Benefits from State Corporate Tax Cuts? A Local Labor Markets Approach with Heterogeneous Firms” (Job Market Paper),  
(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 the location of firms and workers as well as on wage and rental costs. We then use minimum distance methods to recover the parameters that fully 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 the revenue maximizing state corporate tax rate and discuss important 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 Dan Wilson)
- “State Taxes and Spatial Misallocation” (with Pablo Fajgelbaum, Eduardo Morales, and Juan Carlos Suárez Serrato)
- “The Incidence of Technological Change with Heterogeneous Firms” (with 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:**

- “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.

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 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 |

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2013 | NBER Summer Institute – Public Economics, National Tax Association – 106 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Taxation (2 papers, in November), 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 |
|--------------|---------------|