

Heather Bone

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Citizenship:

Canadian

Research Interests:

Economics of Crime, Labour Economics, Machine Learning

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Toronto 2025 (Expected)
Committee: Arthur Blouin (supervisor), Kory Kroft,
David Price

M.A in Economics, University of Toronto 2018

B.A in Economics, University of Waterloo 2017

RESEARCH

Kingpin Down: Power Vacuums, Market Structure, and the Violent Consequences of High-Profile Arrests (Job Market Paper)

Detecting Unobserved Drug Smuggling Using Export Data: Evidence from Peru

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship 2019 - 2023
(\$20,000 x 4)

University of Toronto Doctoral Fellowship (\$12,000) 2018

University of Toronto Doctoral Recruitment Award (\$5000) 2018

University of Toronto Graduate Award (\$10,000) 2018

University of Toronto Faculty of Arts and Sciences Admission Award 2017
(\$12,000)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Course Instruction

2023 - 2024

- ECO 200: Microeconomic Theory (Course Instructor)
- ECO 225: Big Data Methods for Economists (Guest Lecturer)

Teaching Assistant

2017 - present

- ECO 504: Lead Writing-Integrated Teaching Teaching Assistant
- ECO 200: Microeconomic Theory
- ECO 225: Big Data Methods for Economists
- ECO 349: Money, Banking, and Financial Markets
- ECO 321: Canadian Economic History Prior to 1850
- ECO 101: Principles of Microeconomics
- ECO 202: Macroeconomic Theory and Policy
- ECO 342: Twentieth Century Economic History
- ECO 220: Introduction to Data Analysis and Applied Econometrics
- ECO 210: Mathematical Methods for Economic Theory
- ECO 320: Economic Analysis of Law
- ECO 400: Economics Internship Course
- ECO 206: Microeconomic Theory and Applications (for Commerce)

Research Assistant

2022 - 2023

- Philip Oreopolous: Data analysis and human ethics protocols

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Member, LGBTQIA+ Steering Committee for Canadian Economics Association Conference 2022

LANGUAGES

English (native)

Programming: Python, Stata, R, ArcGIS

REFERENCES

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Abstracts

Kingpin Down: Power Vacuums, Market Structure, and the Violent Consequences of High-Profile Arrests

(Job Market Paper)

This paper studies how targeting the top leaders of criminal enterprises impacts market structure and homicide rates in Mexico. While executive capture may disrupt organizational capacity, it may also induce territorial disputes as the existing balance of power between organizations is disrupted. To empirically assess these competing mechanisms, I build a new longitudinal dataset on the presence of criminal enterprises in Mexican municipalities, drawing from over 21 million newspaper articles. I train natural language models to extract (1) whether the article pertains to organized crime, (2) the names of criminal enterprises and locations mentioned in the text, and (3) which locations (if any) each criminal enterprise is operating in. I find that capture or assassination induces a 49% local increase in the number of criminal enterprises operating in these locations, reflecting the entry of competing groups to the geography. This market restructuring explains why a leader's capture or death induces a 32% increase in local homicides, suggesting costly repercussions associated with the policy.

Detecting Unobserved Drug Smuggling Using Export Data: Evidence from Peru

This paper develops a method through which to detect unobserved drug smuggling using transaction level export data. Exploiting a positive supply shock to the Peruvian cocaine market from coca eradication policy in Colombia, I study the impact of an exogenously induced increase in coca prices on the value of exports from Peru, as drug traffickers commonly use other goods to conceal cocaine shipments. Using variation in Colombian coca production to predict coca leaf prices, I estimate that a \$1USD/KG increase in the farm gate price of coca leaves lead to a 248% increase in the value of exports from Peruvian provinces that are highly suitable to grow coca to countries identified by intelligence agencies as cocaine transit countries. Additionally, I find evidence that characterizes drug traffickers as sophisticated agents who reduce the risk of arrest or seizure through their selection of shipping methods. I discuss the importance of these results in the context of global drug policy and provide a scope for future work.