

MYLES ELLIS
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BROWN UNIVERSITY

References

Professor **Brian Knight**
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Professor **Pedro Dal Bó**
Brown University
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Professor **Andrei Shleifer**
Harvard University
shleifer@fas.harvard.edu

Education

Brown University Ph.D. Candidate in Economics	Providence, RI 2021 –current
Brown University M.A. Economics	Providence, RI 2021 –2022
Harvard University Research Scholars Initiative Fellow	Cambridge, MA 2019 –2021
University of Maryland, Baltimore County B.A. Mathematics	Baltimore, MD 2015 –2019

Teaching and Research Fields

Political Economy, Applied Microeconomics and Finance

Job Market Paper

Copycat Legislation: The Rising Influence of Special Interest Groups on State Politics

I study how statehouse resources shape reliance on special interest group originated “copycat” legislation based on templates. I compile a novel dataset on copycat legislation, bills, and politicians in all 50 states and the U.S. Congress. I document greater template originated text reuse in lower-resourced legislatures. I next evaluate bill sponsorship among politicians who switch from state to federal government to make a causal argument that legislative capacity shapes legislative autonomy. After entering the highly resourced U.S. Congress, legislators from lower-resourced statehouses sponsor less copycat legislation, while politicians from high-resourced statehouses sponsor slightly more.

Working Papers

The Cost of Policy Misalignment in Heterogeneous Communities

(with Mattias Polborn, Vanderbilt University)

We study how a uniform statewide intervention performs under heterogeneous local conditions. We extend a model in which catch-all policies lower production costs but impose misalignment costs where the local fit is poor. Our model predicts that gains are larger in schools where ex-ante fit of the policy was weakest and where personnel turnover responds more strongly to prior school performance. We examine these issues empirically in the context of the Achievement School District (ASD), created by Tennessee in 2010 to place underperforming schools under state oversight. Public Chapter 490 changed ASD exit rules in 2021 by expanding the transition options for eligible charter schools. We test the predictions of our model by using district capacity, charter operator performance and personnel turnover. We also evaluate student outcomes by comparing ASD to a more localized policy before and after Public Chapter 490 using a difference-in-differences design.

Distrust and the Banking System: Measuring effects of the Global Financial Crisis on the Racial Wealth Gap

I first document a slight short-run convergence in the wealth gap between Black and white Americans following the global financial crisis (GFC). At the same time, white and Black trust in banking institutions converged downward in the immediate aftermath of the GFC. I also highlight differential exposure to the banking system, with Black households less exposed than white households, and establish a relative increase in Black household leverage as one plausible explanation for the temporary attenuation of the racial wealth gap. This widening racial leverage gap coincided with a temporary narrowing of the racial gaps in wealth and homeownership.

Research Experience and Other Employment

T Rowe Price	Baltimore, MD
Quantitative Investments Intern, Multi Asset	2018-2019
Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh, PA
Undergraduate Researcher	2017
University of Chicago, Becker Friedman Institute	Chicago, IL
Research Assistant for Nobel Prize-Winning Professor Jim Heckman	2016

Teaching

Teaching Assistant at Brown University

- Applied Economic Analysis (*Instructor: Matt DeHaven*) Spring 2026
- Intermediate Macroeconomics (*Professor: Kellie Forrester*) Fall 2025
- Crisis Economics (*Professor: Spencer Kwon*) Spring 2024
- Financial Institutions (*Professor: Bradford Gibbs*) Fall 2023

Fellowships and Awards

- Research Mobility Fellow, Brown University 2026
- **Orlando Bravo Center Research Grant**, Brown University (\$1200) 2024
- AfroTech Conference Scholarship Award 2023
- **Orlando Bravo Center Research Grant**, Brown University (\$2500) 2023
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Award 2021
- Brown University Graduate Student Fellowship 2021 - current
- Meyerhoff Scholar 2015-2019

Other

- **Conference Talks:** Ph.D. Excellence Initiative (Presenter – 2025), Ph.D. Excellence Initiative (Discussant – 2020)
- **Service:** Nabrit Black Graduate Student Association (Executive Board) at Brown University – 2023 to 2024 Academic Year
- **Expert Witness:** Maryland State Senate (Judicial Proceedings Committee) – 2020
- **Software:** Stata, Python, R, C and Matlab