

Toby Heaney

West Virginia University

Morgantown, WV 26505

Email: toby.heaney2@gmail.com

Department of Economics

Phone: (304) 694-0504

Website: <http://tobyheaney.com>

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, West Virginia University, expected Dec 2024

M.A. Economics, West Virginia University, 2023

M.A. Business Administration, University of Charleston, 2019

B.A. Finance, Fairmont State University, 2009

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Veterans Issues, Unemployment

Secondary: Housing Market

DISSERTATION

“Google Trends and State Level Unemployment”

This study employs a predictive lead regression model to optimize Google Trends search outcomes, enhancing state-level Unemployment predictions. It evaluates the correlation between Google Trends searches, aligned with the Permanent Income Hypothesis, and their capacity to forecast state Unemployment rates. Integrating a decade of Google Trends data and Unemployment records, we find that motor vehicle searches significantly improve Unemployment predictions, offering up to 12 months of advanced foresight. Broadening the geographical scope of Google Trends searches refines these predictions. This study underscores the importance of using multiple search terms within the Permanent Income Hypothesis framework, enhancing Google Trends’ utility for accurate Unemployment forecasting and validating the integration of economic theories with innovative data sources.

PUBLICATIONS AND R&Rs

“Google Trends and State Level Unemployment” 2024, WVU Working Paper, (under review)

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Effect of the Mortgage Deduction Cap: Implications for the Median Voter Theorem.” 2024,

WVU Working Paper

“What is the effect on the city center when a nearby military base closes?” 2024, WVU

Working Paper

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Principles of Micro (undergrad), West Virginia University, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant, Principles of Macro (undergrad), West Virginia University, Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Teaching Assistant, Statistics (undergrad), West Virginia University, Fall 2023

Teaching Assistant, Econometrics II (core graduate), West Virginia University, Fall 2023

Professor, Principles of Macro (undergrad), West Virginia University, Summer 2024

Professor, Survey of Economics (undergrad), West Virginia University, Fall 2024

WORK EXPERIENCE

Retired Sergeant First Class, West Virginia Army National Guard, Jan 1997 – Mar 2021

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Combat Action Badge 2005

Meritorious Service Medal 2021

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Senior Vice Commander, WV Veterans of Foreign Wars

Member, Marion County Development Authority

LANGUAGES

English

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

R, Python, Matlab, HTML, C++

REFERENCES

Prof. Roger Congleton, West Virginia University roger.congleton@mail.wvu.edu 304-293-7866

Prof. Arabinda Basistha, West Virginia University arbasistha@mail.wvu.edu 304-293-7854

Prof. Nathaniel Burke, West Virginia University nathaniel.burke@mail.wvu.edu 304-293-7859