

## **MICHAEL GECHTER**

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### **CURRENT POSITION**

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, The Pennsylvania State University, 2015-Present

### **PREVIOUS POSITIONS**

Visiting Scholar, Centro de Investigación Económica, ITAM, August 2017  
Associate Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute, 2015-2016  
Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, June 2015

### **OTHER AFFILIATIONS**

Research Affiliate, Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE)  
Member, Institutions Trade and Economic Development Network (InsTED)

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, 2015  
M.A., Political Economy, Boston University, Boston MA, 2012  
B.A., Economics (*Magna Cum Laude*), Pomona College, Claremont CA, 2005

### **FIELDS OF INTEREST**

Development Economics, Econometrics

### **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

Research Grant (\$47,355), International Growth Center, 2019  
Research Grant (\$7,920), Weiss Family Program Fund for Research in Development Economics, 2018  
Research Grant (\$25,823), International Growth Center, 2018  
Research Grant (\$19,423), Tata Centre for Development at University of Chicago, 2017  
Research Grant (€300,000), TaiwanBusiness - EBRD Technical Cooperation Fund, 2017  
Funded Participant, Western Economic Association International Graduate Student Workshop, 2014  
Funding for Research Assistant (\$9,600), Boston University Department of Economics RA Mentor Program, 2013-2014  
Research Grant (\$20,734), Weiss Family Program Fund for Research in Development Economics, 2013  
Summer Research Grant (\$5,000), Boston University Department of Economics, 2013  
Department Fellowship, Boston University Department of Economics, 2011-2014  
Morris B. Pendleton Prize, Pomona College Department of Economics, 2005  
Phi Beta Kappa, Pomona College, 2005  
Leland M. Backstrand Memorial Award, Pomona College Department of Economics, 2004  
Student Undergraduate Research Grant, Pomona College, 2004

**WORKING PAPERS**

- “Generalizing the Results from Social Experiments: Theory and Evidence from Mexico and India”
- “The Welfare Consequences of Formalizing Developing Country Cities: Evidence from the Mumbai Mills Redevelopment” (with Nick Tsivanidis)
- “Evaluating Ex Ante Counterfactual Predictions Using Ex Post Causal Inference” (with Cyrus Samii, Rajeev Dehejia, and Kiki Pop-Eleches)

**PUBLICATIONS**

- “Indian Labor Regulations and the Cost of Corruption: Evidence from the Firm Size Distribution” (with Amrit Amirapu), forthcoming at the *Review of Economics and Statistics*

**SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS**

- “Combining Experimental and Observational Studies in Meta-Analysis: Leveraging Experimental Structures to Eliminate Selection Bias” (with Rachael Meager)
- “Alleviating the Congestion Effects of Rapid Urbanization: Evidence from the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Amman” (with Nick Tsivanidis and Nathaniel Young)
- “How Do Environmental Firm Location Policies Affect Workers, Firms, and Environmental Quality?” (with Namrata Kala and Nikhil Naik)
- “Structural Priors” (with Keisuke Hirano)
- “Market Structure and Competition in the Indian Fertilizer Industry” (with Stefan Hoderlein, Beáta Itin-Shwartz and Hiroaki Kaido)
- “Dynamic Effects of Product Market Regulation: Evidence from India” (with Amrit Amirapu and Gabriel Smagghue)

**INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- 2018-19 (including scheduled):** Penn State Statistics, Urban Economics Association Annual Meeting, Rice, Syracuse, Yale
- 2017-18:** Cornell/Penn State Econometrics & IO Conference, EPED, Jinan University Firms in Emerging Economies Workshop, JPAL, Kent, Oxford Global Priorities Institute Workshop on Causal Inference and Extrapolation, UPitt, Reserve Bank of India, Workshop in Economics Research at IIM-Bangalore
- 2016-17:** Columbia University Causal Inference Conference, Entrepreneurship and Private Enterprise Development (EPED) in Emerging Economies Workshop, ITAM, NYU Abu Dhabi, NYU New York
- 2015-16:** Atlantic Causal Inference Conference, Georgetown, George Washington, IADB/Cornell Conference on Size and Type Dependent Regulations, IFPRI
- 2014-15:** BU, BU-BC Econometrics Conference, Cambridge, Carlos III, CIDE, Cornell PAM, Hebrew U, IFPRI, ITAM, Laval, NEUDC, Penn State, Sciences Po, WEAI Graduate Student Workshop
- 2013-14:** IGIDR, ISI-CSO-IGC International Workshop on Official Data

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- Economic Development (Ph.D.), The Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2018, Fall 2016
- Labor Economics and Labor Markets: Theory, Evidence, and Policy (Undergraduate), Fall 2017, Fall 2018
- Growth and Development (Undergraduate), The Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2017

**MICHAEL GECHTER**

Teaching Fellow, Introductory Microeconomic Analysis (Undergraduate), Boston University,  
Spring 2011

**REFEREE EXPERIENCE**

*The American Economic Review, Development Engineering, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Urban Economics, The Review of Economics and Statistics, The Singapore Economic Review, Urban Affairs Review*

**GRANT REVIEW EXPERIENCE**

African Growth and Development Policy Modeling Consortium (AGRODEP)

**PAST EMPLOYMENT**

Research Assistant for Hiroaki Kaido, Boston University, 2011-2015  
Principal and Co-Founder, Idealistics, Inc., 2005-2013  
Research Assistant for Tahir Andrabi, Pomona College, 2003-2005

**LANGUAGES:** Fluent in English, French and Spanish. Basic Dutch and Hindi.

**CITIZENSHIP:** USA, Belgium