

Sarit Weisburd

The Eitan Berglas School of Economics
Tel Aviv University
P.O.B. 39040
Ramat Aviv, Israel 69978

Phone: 972-3-640-5825
saritw@post.tau.ac.il
saritw.weebly.com
Citizenships: USA & Israel

Professional Experience

Tel Aviv University

Tenure Track Lecturer of the Economics Department

(September 2014- Present)

Centre for Economic Policy Research

Research Affiliate of the Industrial Organization Programme

(July 2016 – Present)

University of Washington

Visiting Scholar of the Economics Department and PHEnOM

(August 2013- August 2014)

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Senior Research Assistant for the Industrial Output Section.

- Contributing to research and analysis on the following topics:
 - a. Alternative estimates of Gross Domestic Product
 - b. Total Factor Productivity by Industry
 - c. The Effect of Unemployment Insurance on Wage
- Collecting and processing data for economic analysis
- Manipulating data using advanced SAS tools (Macros and SQL queries)

(July 2004 to May 2006)

Research Fields

Applied Microeconomics, Economics of Crime, Applied IO

Publications

“Do Stop Question, and Frisk Practices Deter Crime? Evidence at Micro-Units of Space and Time” with David Weisburd, Alese Wooditch, and Sue-Ming Yang
Criminology & Public Policy, Nov 2015

“Identifying Moral Hazard in Car Insurance Contracts.”
The Review of Economics and Statistics, May 2015

Work in Progress

“Police Presence, Rapid Response Rates, and Crime Prevention”

This paper estimates the impact of police presence on crime using a unique database that tracks the exact location of Dallas Police Department patrol cars throughout 2009. To address the concern that officer location is often driven by crime, our instrument exploits police responses to calls outside of their allocated coverage beat. This variable provides a plausible shift in police presence within the given beat that is driven by the police goal of minimizing response times.

“Providing Consumers with Sale Information: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Online Supermarket Shopping” (joint with Kfir Eliaz and Orli Oren-Kolbinger)

Sarit Weisburd

Work in Progress

Does providing consumers with information about discounts, help them realize more savings? We address this question using data from a field experiment on a website that offers purchase and delivery from a local supermarket chain in the U.S. Our results illustrate the difficulty in using information provision to steer shoppers towards cheaper alternatives (of equal or higher quality than their substitutes) when consumers shop for multiple products with changing prices. We find that providing (treatment) shoppers with promotional information on sale categories increases the probability of purchasing within the category. This effect is driven by an increase in purchasing rates for both the reduced priced items and regularly priced alternatives. Our analysis focuses on understanding how item placement, promotional information, and the way promotional information is displayed play a role in affecting consumer surplus.

“Social Security, Labor Supply and Health of Older Workers: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from a Large Reform” (joint with Itay Saporta-Eksten and Ity Shurtz)

We study the effects of public pension systems on the retirement timing of older workers and, in turn, the health consequences of delaying retirement by those workers. Causal inference relies on a social security reform in Israel that shifted payments from husbands to their (non-working) wives, thereby substantially reducing the implied tax on the husband’s employment while keeping overall household wealth constant. Using administrative social security data, we estimate extensive-margin labor supply elasticities w.r.t. the average net-of-tax rate of about 0.6 for men over 65. Using the reform to instrument for employment, we find that working an additional full year at old age decreases survival probability past age 80 by 13%. This effect is driven by workers holding blue-collar jobs. Finally, we evaluate the effect of the reform on earnings. The results imply a small value for an additional year of life, suggesting that workers underestimate the health cost of employment at older ages.

“Adverse Selection and Moral Hazard in the Leasing Market: Are Buy-Backs the Solution?” (joint with Ronny Ben-Porath and Daniel Bird)

We study the problem faced by a car-leasing firm in the presence of both adverse selection and moral hazard. While the literature has primarily focused on the role of leasing in avoiding adverse selection and the role of an above market buyback price in this environment, we show how this result reverses when moral hazard concerns are severe. The key driver of this result is that a low buy back price can incentivize non-contractible investment. We test the model using a difference-in-differences technique to compare accident outcomes of individuals driving leased company vehicles in Israel before and after a tax change and differentiate between drivers by their probability of utilizing the buyback clause. Our analysis shows that once exiting the leasing cycle becomes a relevant option due to a 110 percent increase in the tax rate on company cars it decreases the at-fault accident rate by half an accident per year (s.e. 0.25) for relevant drivers.

“The Driving Implications of a Company Car Benefit”

Sarit Weisburd

Company cars that include free fuel, insurance and maintenance have become a staple employee benefit in many Israeli and European companies. Moral hazard would suggest that the benefits associated with these cars would result in lower driving care and higher accident rates and driving penalties. However, it is often argued that drivers receiving this benefit face longer commutes and/or a more difficult work schedule which would result in an increased rate of car accidents regardless of a moral hazard effect. Using a range of identification strategies, we analyze the impact of a legislative change that doubled the monthly tax rate on company cars in Israel (an annual cost increase of about \$3,500).

Invited Presentations

2018

Barcelona GSE Summer Forum - Consumer Search and Switching Costs (June), Bar-Ilan Workshop on Perceptions and Public Policies (September).

2017

Seventh Annual Israeli IO Day (December)

2016

2016 European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (December), Southern Economic Association (November), The Hebrew University Environmental Economics Seminar (June), Tel Aviv University Business School Seminar (May)

Conference Organization: Tel Aviv Applied Micro Workshop (December) (joint with Kfir Eliaz)

2015

The Hebrew University Empirical Seminar (November), Ben Gurion University Departmental Seminar (November), Harvard Workshop in Law, Economics, and Organization (November), 10th Annual Conference in Empirical Legal Studies (October), Penn Criminology Workshop (October), Boston University Microeconomics Lunch (October), Economic Workshop at IDC (June).

2014

Fourth Annual Israeli IO Day (December), University of Maryland IO Seminar (April), University of Michigan IO Lunch (April), University of Michigan Labor Lunch (April), Stanford IO Lunch (February), MIT Labor Lunch (February), University of British Columbia Economics Empirical Lunch (January 2014).

2013

The Harris School at University of Chicago PPE Workshop (December), University of Washington PHEnom Seminar (October), UCSD Applied Micro Seminar (October).

2012

The 2012 European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (November), Bar-Ilan University Doctoral Seminar (June), Tel Aviv University Labor Workshop (June),

2011

Tel Aviv University Business School IO/Strategy Seminar (January)

Sarit Weisburd

Invited Presentations	2010 Haifa University Departmental Seminar (December), The Bank of Israel Research Seminar (September), The Israeli Economics Association Annual Conference (June) The Seventh CEPR School on Applied Industrial Organization (May) The Hebrew University Economics Empirical Seminar (February)
Grants, Awards & Honors	Research Grant from the Falk Institute (August 2017 – August 2021) Individual Research Grant 1067/16 “Police Presence, Rapid Response Rates, and Crime” from the Israel Science Foundation (ISF) (October 2016- September 2019) Research Grant from the Sapir Foundation (October 2014- August 2019) Doctoral Scholarship from the Ran Naor Foundation (August 2013- May 2014) NSF/NBER Crime Research Fellow (July 2013- July 2014) Blazuska Scholarship for Outstanding Doctoral Student in Economics (The Hebrew University, October 2011) Doctoral Fellowship from the Israel National Road Safety Authority (October 2008- September 2011)
Refereeing	American Economic Review, Econometrica, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Journal of the European Economic Association