

Sarit Weisburd

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Citizenships: USA & Israel

Professional Experience	<p>Tel Aviv University Tenure Track Lecturer of the Economics Department (September 2014- Present)</p> <p>Centre for Economic Policy Research Research Affiliate of the Industrial Organization Programme (July 2016 – Present)</p> <p>University of Washington Visiting Scholar of the Economics Department and PHEnOM (August 2013- August 2014)</p> <p>Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System Senior Research Assistant for the Industrial Output Section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Contributing to research and analysis on the following topics:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Alternative estimates of Gross Domestic Productb. Total Factor Productivity by Industryc. 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)
Education	<p>Ph.D. in Economics, The Hebrew University, 2008-2014 DISSERTATION: The Effects of Financial Incentives and Deterrence on Driving Behavior</p> <p>M.A. in Economics, The Hebrew University, 2006-2008 B.A. in Mathematics and Economics (Magna Cum Laude) University of Maryland, College Park, 2000-2004.</p>
Research Fields	Applied Microeconomics, Economics of Crime, Applied IO
Publications	<p>“Social Security, Labor Supply and Health of Older Workers: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from a Large Reform” with Itay Saporta-Eksten and Ity Shurtz <i>Journal of the European Economic Association</i>, forthcoming</p> <p>“Police Presence, Rapid Response Rates, and Crime Prevention” <i>The Review of Economics and Statistics</i>, forthcoming</p> <p>“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 <i>Criminology & Public Policy</i>, Nov 2015</p> <p>“Identifying Moral Hazard in Car Insurance Contracts.” <i>The Review of Economics and Statistics</i>, May 2015</p>

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Audio

“Episode 32: Sarit Weisburd”, *Probable Causation Podcast*, July 2020
<https://www.probablecausation.com/podcasts/episode-32-sarit-weisburd>

Media

"חוקרים פרטיים: האם התשובה לכל שאלה היא לתת לנתונים לדבר"
<https://www.ynet.co.il/article/HyLHopUcw> , November 21st 2020.

Lehman, Charles Fain. “Beat Cops Cut Crime.”
<https://www.city-journal.org/how-police-presence-maintains-public-order>
November 30th 2020.

Work in Progress

“Police Response Times and Injury Outcomes” with Greg DeAngelo and Marina Toger
R&R Economic Journal, November 2020

The delayed response of law enforcement to calls for service has become a hot button issue when evaluating police department performance. While it is often assumed that faster response times could play an important role in quelling potentially violent incidents, to date there is no empirical evidence to support this claim. In this paper, we measure the effect of police response time on the likelihood that an incident results in an injury. To overcome the endogeneity between more severe calls being issued a higher priority, which requires a faster response, we take several steps. First, we focus on a subset of calls for service categorized as "Major Disturbance - Violence" that all receive the same priority level. Second, we instrument for police response time with the number of vehicles within a 2.5 mile radius of the call at the time it is received at the call center. When controlling for beat fixed effects, this instrumenting strategy allows us to take advantage of the geographical constraints faced by a dispatcher when assigning officers to an incident. In contrast to the OLS estimates, our two-stage least squares analysis establishes a strong, positive causal relationship between response time and the likelihood that an incident results in an injury. The effect is concentrated among female callers, suggesting that faster response time could potentially play an important role in reducing injuries related to domestic violence.

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

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.

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Work in Progress

“The Driving Implications of a Company Car Benefit”

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).

"The Swap & Be-Healthy & Product Promotion Supermarket Shopping Interventions" (with Kfir Eliaz, Neil Thakral, and Mathias Wagner Barlose)

This project analyzes data from two large-scale randomized controlled experiments run on roughly 35,000 shoppers on an online grocery platform. During the four-month intervention period of the Swap and Be Healthy experiment, 50 percent of the users were randomly allocated to the Swap and be Healthy treatment nudge. When these treatment shoppers added a less healthy product to their basket, a popup appeared with the option to swap to a healthier substitute (lower fat, less salt, etc.) with the click on an icon. During the four-month intervention period of the Product Promotion experiment, 50 percent of shoppers were randomly allocated to viewing a banner of on-sale junk-food products, and the remaining 50 percent were allocated to viewing a banner of on-sale non-food products. Within each of these groups, half of the shoppers were randomly allocated to viewing the banner at the beginning of their shopping trip, while the other half viewed the same banner at the end of their shopping trip. We examine how exposure to these interventions influence shopping decisions, and the extent to which the effects persist over time after the intervention period ends. Our data provide an opportunity to test both what types of consumers are most impacted by the interventions and estimate how the time (within the shopping trip) at which a consumer considers purchasing an unhealthy item impacts their responsiveness to information and prices.

Invited Presentations

2021

University of Pennsylvania Law & Economics Seminar (March), The Hebrew University Empirical Seminar (March)

2020

Tel Aviv University Law & Economics Seminar (January), Endogenous Rules, Risk, & Legal Institutions Workshop at CGU (February), CGU Computational Justice Lab (February), UCI Labor/Public Seminar (February), Flash Webinar on Policing Research at Texas A&M University (June), The Business School at Hebrew University (July), NBER SI Crime (July), Econometric Society World Congress 2020 (August), Haifa University Departmental Seminar (September), Temple University Departmental Seminar (October), Purdue Public/Labor Seminar (November)

2019

Western Society of Criminology (February)

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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 Micro
(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)

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

Individual Research Grant 947/20 “Using Big Data to Understand What Causes People
to Make Healthier Food Choices” from the Israel Science Foundation (ISF)
(October 2020- September 2023)

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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 2020)
- Research Grant from the Sapir Foundation
(October 2014- August 2021)
- 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, American Economic Journal: Applied, Journal of the European Economic Association, The Review of Economics & Statistics, International Economic Review, Economic Journal, Journal of Public Economics.