

Panka Bencsik

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Employment

Vanderbilt University, Department of Medicine, Health, and Society <i>Assistant Professor</i>	Nashville, TN 2022–present
University of Chicago, Urban Labs <i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</i>	Chicago, IL 2019–2022

Affiliation

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago <i>Visiting Scholar</i>	2023–2024
Vanderbilt Center for Research on Inequality and Health <i>Faculty Affiliate</i>	2023–2024
University of Chicago, Crime Lab <i>Affiliate Researcher</i>	2022–present

Education

University of Sussex <i>Ph.D., Economics</i>	Brighton, United Kingdom 2014–2019
Brookings Institution <i>Fulbright Fellow</i>	Washington, DC 2016–2017
Eotvos Lorand University <i>M.Sc., Survey Statistics</i>	Budapest, Hungary 2010–2013
Bard College <i>Visiting Student</i>	Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 2012–2013

Working Papers

The Intergenerational Transmission of Mental and Physical Health in the United Kingdom.
(with Timothy Halliday and Bhash Mazumder) *IZA Discussion Paper Series No. 14126*.
Revise and Resubmit at the *Journal of Health Economics*

Policing Substance Use: Chicago's Treatment Program for Narcotics Arrests. (with Ashna Arora)
Working paper [here](#).

Police violence reduces civilian cooperation and engagement with law enforcement.

(with Desmond Ang, Jesse Bruhn, and Ellora Derenoncourt) *Brown University, Orlando Bravo Center for Economic Research No. 2021-005*.

Slow Travel, Fast Food: The Effects of Time Lost on Food Store Choice. (with Lester Lusher and Becca Taylor) *IZA Discussion Paper No. 16036*.

Stress on the sidewalk: The mental health costs of close proximity crime. (with Richard Dickens and George MacKerron)

Publications

Pinto, S., Bencsik, P., Chuluun, T., Graham, C. (2021). Presidential Elections, Divided Politics, and Happiness in the U.S. *Economica*. 88, no. 349 : 189-207.

Bencsik, P., Chuluun, T. (2021). Comparative well-being of the self-employed and paid employees in the USA. *Small Business Economics*. 56, 355-384.

Bencsik, P. (2018). The non-financial costs of violent public disturbances: Emotional responses to the 2011 riots in England. *Journal of Housing Economics*. 40, 73-82.

Works in Progress

Free Communication Technology in Prison. (with Nour Abdul-Razzak, Ashna Arora, and Omair Gill)

The Impact of Gunshots on Consumer and Business Activity. (with Jesse Bruhn)

Mental Health and Well-being as Economic Phenomena.

Marijuana Regulation and Policing. (with Saayili Budhiraja)

Non-academic Writing

“Slow traffic, fast food: The effects of time lost on food store choice.” *IZA World of Labor*, June 14, 2023 (with Lester Lusher and Becca Taylor)

“Chicago program aims to reduce substance abuse — without punishment.” *Chicago Tribune*, December 1, 2022 (in print issue) (with Ashna Arora)

“Are the self-employed happy entrepreneurs?” *Brookings Institution*, September 29, 2017 (with Tuugi Chuluun and Carol Graham)

Academic Presentations

Invited Seminars.....

- 2023:** Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design
- 2022:** Northwestern University (Applied Microeconomics Workshop); Paris-Saclay University
- 2021:** Purdue University; Vanderbilt University; San Jose State University; University of Pittsburgh; European Association of Labour Economists Annual Conference
- 2018:** London School of Economics (Wellbeing Economics Series)

Conference Presentations.....

- 2023:** American Economic Association Annual Conference (AEA), Texas Economics of Crime Workshop (Discussant), Corvinus University of Budapest Research Workshop
- 2022:** American Economic Association Annual Conference (AEA) (session co-organizer); Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) (session co-organizer, chair X 2); Workshop on the Economics of Risky Behavior; SERN Applied Microeconomics Research Workshop
- 2021:** Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon), Discrimination and Diversity Workshop at the University of East Anglia, Stockholm Criminology Symposium, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, AL CAPONE Crime Conference, Southern Economic Association (SEA)
- 2020:** Southern Economics Association Annual Conference (SEA); Essen Economics of Mental Health Workshop; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM); Midwest Health Economics Workshop; American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) (session organizer) (cancelled); AL CAPONE Crime Conference (cancelled); American Law and Economics Association (ALEA) (cancelled)
- 2019:** Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime; International Health Economics Association (iHEA), Zurich Conference on Data Science and Law
- 2018:** Western Economic Association International (WEAI); Graduate Student Workshop of WEAI
- 2017:** CORE Economics workshop, Barnard College (panelist); The Brookings Institution Economics of Happiness Workshop, Hungarian Economics Association
- 2015:** University of Leicester

Guest Lectureships.....

- 2022:** Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law
- 2016:** University of Sussex – Teaching and Learning Experience at Sussex Series

Invited Policy and Public Engagement Talks.....

- 2022:** Niskanen Center – Flash Webinar Series on Prosecution Reform, Chicago Westside Substance Use Treatment Provider Meeting, University of Chicago – Policing and Public Health in the Opioid Epidemic (chair)
- 2021:** Mayor’s Office of Chicago, Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Police Department, Chicago Fire Department, Chicago High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

Research Award

International Health Economics Association
Graduate Student Paper Award, Third prize (2019)

Media Coverage of Research

- "Here's how Chicago can better connect domestic violence victims with services", *Chicago Tribune*, 2023
- "Diversion programs tackle drug abuse without punishment", *NewsNation*, 2023
- "'It's going to save lives': Chicago Police Department expands eligibility for drug users to get treatment instead of jail ", *Chicago Sun Times*, 2022
- "Chicago Increases Access to Treatment for Drug Users", *The Crime Report*, 2022
- "Offering treatment, not jail, for more drug users is right step", *Chicago Sun Times*, 2022
- "Chicago Expands Drug Diversion Program, Thailand Marijuana Legalization Now in Effect, More...", *Stop the Drug War*, 2022
- "Episode 67: David Phillips", *Probable Causation*, 2022
- "George Floyd's murder discouraged Americans from calling the police", *The Economist*, 2021
- "America's murder surge", *Axios*, 2021
- "As Police Violence Increases, Civilians Less Likely to Call 911: Study", *The Crime Report*, 2021
- "More guns, pandemic stress and a police legitimacy crisis created perfect conditions for homicide spike in 2020", *The Conversation*, 2021
- "HKS Researchers Find Decrease In Civilian Crime Reporting Following Murder of George Floyd", *The Harvard Crimson*, 2021
- "Political Ignorance Is Bliss", *Reason*, 2020

Policy Coverage of Research

- "Mayor Lightfoot Announces Expansion of Narcotics Arrest Diversion Program", *Office of the Mayor*, 2022

Podcast Appearance

- "Episode 75: Panka Bencsik", *Probable Causation*, 2022

Teaching

Vanderbilt University (2022–present).....

Courses.....

- MHS 3890: Mental Health Policy
- PPS 3250: Advanced Quantitative Methods

Teaching Award.....

- Dean’s Distinguished Teaching Fellow (2023-2024)

Guest Lectureships.....

- MHS 6120: Writing and Presentation (graduate level) (Spring 2023)
- MHS-7100: Research Workshop (graduate level) (Spring 2023)

University of Sussex (2014–2019)

Courses (Graduate Teaching Assistant)

- Econometrics
- Statistics for Economics and Finance
- Introduction to Econometrics
- Introduction to Mathematics for Finance and Economics
- Introduction to Statistics

Teaching Fellowships and Teaching-related Certifications.....

Mental Health First Aid certification

awarded by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing (2021)

CORE-Teagle Fellow

awarded by the Teagle Foundation (2017)

Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy

awarded by the United Kingdom Professional Standards Framework (2016)

Grants and Scholarships

Principal Investigator. “The Impact of Gunshots on Consumer and Business Activity,” Everytown for Gun Safety (with Jesse Bruhn) (2022)

ASHEcon Diversity Scholarship (2020)

awarded by the American Society of Health Economists as a recognition for the diverse perspectives brought to research and teaching

Sussex Overseas Travel Grant (2019)

awarded by the University of Sussex to support conference travel

Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Graduate Student Workshop (2018)

awarded by the Western Economic Association International to the most outstanding 16 penultimate-year economics graduate students worldwide (was first awardee outside of North America in the award's history)

Small Grants award (2018)

awarded by the Royal Economic Society (United Kingdom) to support research related costs

Summer Institute grant (2018)

awarded by the National Bureau of Economic Research to cover travel costs associated with attending the Summer Institute

Fulbright Fellow (2016-2017)

awarded by the Fulbright Foundation for graduate research activity completed at the Brookings Institution, Washington, DC

Rosztoczy Fellow (2016-2017)

awarded by the Rosztoczy Foundation for graduate research activity

Pre-doctoral Researcher (2014)

awarded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research to complete research

Kellner Scholar (2012-2013)

awarded by the Kellner Foundation to study for one year at Bard College, NY

Professional Activities

Mental Health Economics Special Interest Group.....

Founder, Lead Convener (2019-2023), and Past Lead Convener (2023-present) of the Mental Health Economics Special Interest Group, the world's largest research hub on the economics of mental health, and part of the International Health Economics Association (iHEA).

Media coverage: Economics, Psychology, Policy Blog

Journal Referee.....

- Quarterly Journal of Economics
- Health Economics
- Journal of Public Economics
- Journal of Health Economics
- Journal of Policy Analysis and Management
- Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization
- Journal of Experimental Criminology

- Regional Science and Urban Economics
- Applied Research in Quality of Life
- Journal of Happiness Studies
- PLOS ONE

University Service.....

University of Chicago
External seminar series co-organizer for Urban Labs 2020–2022

University of Sussex
Founder and co-chair
 Discussion Series for Early Career Academics on Teaching Matters 2015–2016

Other service.....

Steering Committee Member, Data Network (Brookings Institution) (2016-2017)

Professional Memberships

- American Economic Association
- American Society of Health Economists
- American Law and Economics Association
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- International Health Economic Association
- Royal Economic Association

Languages

- English:** Fluent
- Hungarian:** Fluent
- German:** Intermediate
- Danish:** Intermediate
- Spanish:** Beginner

Last updated: July 27, 2023