



JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES
AND DUNCAN GRANT
(ABOUT 1913)

COMING SOON: A Brand New Visual Identity for Our Newsletter and Community

We have exciting news to share! We'd like to introduce you to our new logo!

As a full American Economics Association committee, we believe it's fitting that we develop a visual identity that reflects and celebrates our mission, as well as increasing visibility for queer economists. In that vein, the new committee has been working with a designer to create a logo. We wanted a design that's colorful, energetic, and inclusive, while incorporating elements of the logo identifying our parent organization, the American Economic Association.



Keep an eye out for swag with our logo, as well as a new color scheme debuting in the next issue of the newsletter! ▼

CONTENTS

Greetings

Coming Soon: A Brand New Visual Identity 1

Notes from the Profession

Double Dutch: A Conversation between Vincent Sterk and Ralph De Haas 1

Research Review:

"Effects of Access to Legal Same-Sex Marriage on Marriage & Health: Evidence from BRFS" 2

News

Events 3

Publications 3

Promotions, Jobs, & Awards 4

Job Market 4

Events Photo Gallery ... 7

Newsletter Committee Members 12

NOTES FROM THE PROFESSION

DOUBLE DUTCH



Vincent Sterk

*A conversation between **Vincent Sterk**¹ (pronouns: he/him), University College London and **Ralph De Haas**² (pronouns: he/him), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*



Ralph De Haas

Vincent Sterk: Let's begin with how we both ended up in London.

Ralph De Haas: I moved here in 2006 to work at the EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development). Before that I worked at De Nederlandsche Bank, the Dutch central bank. They had an in-house program as part of which economists affiliated with a Dutch university could pursue their PhD. After finishing that program, I wanted to work more on issues related to finance and development, and

the EBRD was a great place to do so.

You also worked at the Dutch central bank, right? Did you start there straight after your PhD?

Vincent: I was part of the bank's PhD program as well. I finished my Master's at Tilburg University, briefly worked for the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and then moved to the Dutch central bank and did a PhD there while affiliated with the University of Amsterdam.

1 <http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~uctpst/>

2 <https://www.ebrd.com/what-we-do/economic-research-and-data/researchers/ralph-de-haas.html>

- continued on page 5

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with news, comments, or requests to be added or removed from the distribution list.

RESEARCH REVIEW

“Effects of Access to Legal Same-Sex Marriage on Marriage and Health: Evidence from BRFSS” by Christopher Carpenter, Samuel T. Eppink, Gilbert Gonzales, Jr., and Tara McKay

- Reviewed by Elliott Isaac (pronouns: he/him) and Michael Martell (pronouns: he/him)

The United States’ 1996 Defense of Marriage Act defined “marriage,” for federal government purposes, as a union between one man and one woman. Despite this definition at the federal level, states were allowed to decide for themselves whether they would recognize same-sex marriages. Beginning with Massachusetts in 2004, state recognition of same-sex marriages conferred important benefits to same-sex married couples, such as potential state tax breaks and access to employer-sponsored health insurance through one’s spouse. Many findings suggest that marriage, above and beyond other forms of legal recognition, has positive health effects. For example, marriage may improve health not only through access to employer-sponsored health insurance, but also through other important mechanisms including spousal support and care within marriage, investments in one’s own health as a commitment to marriage longevity, and spousal reinforcement of healthy behaviors.¹

In this paper, Carpenter, Eppink, Gonzales, and McKay estimate the causal effect of access to legal same-sex marriage on marriage take-up and health outcomes, using variation in same-sex marriage recognition over states and time. The authors use a novel data source, the 2000-16 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), to identify same-sex households and construct a sample spanning the entire rollout of legal access to same-sex marriage in the United States. Data quality and measurement error have been substantial concerns in the LGBT economics literature. The authors’ innovative use of the BRFSS to construct their sample alleviates problems caused by social disability bias and underreporting (false negatives), but in return samples many non-LGB people (false positives). It also provides a way to study LGB people in studies that don’t ask about sexual orientation.

METHODOLOGY

The authors use the BRFSS to construct a primary sample of same-sex households with exactly two adult men or exactly two adult women and a placebo sample of different-sex households with exactly one adult man and one adult woman. This indirect method of identifying individuals who are likely to be in same-sex relationships means that the authors’ sample selection does not rely on self-identification as a sexual minority, as people may shield their sexual orientation from the survey. The authors estimate that 11% of women and 28% of men in their same-sex household samples identify as something other than heterosexual, suggesting that their findings are conservative.

The authors use a novel data source, the 2000-16 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), to identify same-sex households & construct a sample spanning the entire rollout of legal access to same-sex marriage in the United States.

A difference-in-differences approach, comparing individuals in same-sex households in states that recognized same-sex marriages to those living in states that did not, is used to identify the effect of access to legal same-sex marriage. They consider a large number of outcomes, including marital status; insurance coverage; access to a usual source of health care; whether they have unmet medical needs or had a recent checkup; self-reported physical and mental health; risky behaviors such as alcohol consumption, smoking, and drug use; and preventative health behaviors such as getting a flu shot, a Pap test, a mammogram, and a colon-cancer screening. They also control for a number of additional state-specific characteristics capturing local economic conditions, public insurance program generosity, LGBT-relevant policies, and state-specific time trends.

FINDINGS

On marriage take-up:

- Access to legal same-sex marriage increases the probability that individuals in a same-sex household

- continued on page 7

¹ These findings, on net, dominate, but of course this could go either way. For instance, an unhealthy individual may directly and negatively affect the health of a spouse through disease transmission or, indirectly, through caregiver effects (Schulz and Beach 1999).

NEWS

EVENTS

ASSA 2020 Annual Meeting — Jan. 3-5, 2020
Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina • SD, CA

PINK PAPERS: LGBT Economics

Saturday, January 4th: 8-10 a.m.

Marriott Grand Ballroom 11

“The Effect of Gender Nonconformity on Labor Market and Health Outcomes.”

◆ Ian Burn, Stockholm University and Michael Martell, Bard College

“Unobserved Heterogeneity and Labor Market Discrimination against Homosexuals.”

◆ Miguel Sarzosa, Purdue University

“Cigarette Taxes and Adult Smoking Among Sexual Minority Adults.”

◆ Christopher Carpenter and Dario Sansone, Vanderbilt University

“Sexual Orientation Discrimination in the Workplace.”

◆ Scott Delhomme, University of Texas-Austin

AEA LGBTQ Luncheon

Saturday, January 4th: 12:30-2:15 p.m.

Marriott Marquis San Diego • Santa Rosa Room

AEA LGBTQ Reception

Saturday, January 4th: 6-8 p.m.

Marriott Marquis San Diego • Catalina Room ▼

PUBLICATIONS (Recent & Forthcoming)

Many congratulations to our colleagues who report the following research successes:

Niclas Berggren (with Martin Niclas, Martin Ljunge, Therese Nilsson). Forthcoming. **“Roots of Tolerance Among Second Second-Generation Immigrants.”** *Journal of Institutional Economics*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1744137419000316>

Elizabeth Gooch. Forthcoming. **“Terrain Ruggedness and Limits to Political Repression: Evidence from China’s Great Leap Forward and Famine (1959-61).”** *Journal of Comparative Economics*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jce.2019.08.001>

Tarek Alexander Hassan. 2019. **“Firm-Level Political Risk.”** *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 13 (4) (November), 2135–2202.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjz021>

See also: www.firmlevelrisk.com

Samuel Mann (with Sarah Bridges). Forthcoming. **“Sexual Orientation, Legal Partnership and Wages in Britain.”** *Work, Employment and Society*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0950017019873265>

Michael E. Martell (with Mary E. Hansen and Leanne Roncolato). Forthcoming. **“A Labor of Love: The Impact of Same-Sex Marriage on Labor Supply.”** *Review of Economics of the Household*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11150-019-09454-1>

Michael E. Martell (with Leanne Roncolato). Forthcoming. **“Share of Household Earnings and Time Use of Women in Same-Sex and Different-Sex Households.”** *Eastern Economic Journal*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41302-019-00145-4>

Michael E. Martell. Forthcoming. **“Age and the New Lesbian Earnings Penalty.”** *International Journal of Manpower*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJM-10-2018-0322>

Kurt Mitman (with Greg Kaplan and Giovanni Violante). Forthcoming. **“The Housing Boom and Bust: Model Meets Evidence.”** *Journal of Political Economy*.

Dario Sansone. Forthcoming. **“LGBT Students: New Evidence on Demographics and Educational Outcomes.”** *Economics of Education Review*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econedurev.2019.101933>

John Tang. Forthcoming. **“The Samurai Bond: Credit Supply, Market Access, and Structural Transformation in Pre-War Japan.”** *Journal of Economic History*.

<https://ideas.repec.org/p/auu/hpaper/056.html> ▼

- NEWS continues on page 4

- continued from page 3

NEWS

PROMOTIONS, JOBS, & AWARDS

Congratulations to Susanna Berkouwer, who was recently awarded “Best Student Paper” by the United States Association for Energy Economics (USAEE). Coauthored with Joshua T. Dean, the paper is titled “Credit and Attention in the Adoption of Profitable Energy Efficient Technologies in Kenya.”

Congratulations to Ian Chadd, who began working at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute this fall alongside **Billur Aksoy**. Ian writes, “I think this likely makes RPI the econ with the highest concentration of queer economists (2/8).”

Congratulations to Elizabeth Gooch, who is now working at the Naval Postgraduate School as an assistant professor.

Congratulations to Samuel Mann, who recently accepted a position as a postdoctoral research officer with the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD) at Swansea University. Mann has also been named a “Global Labour Organisation Virtual Young Scholar.”

Congratulations to Kurt Mitman, who was voted tenure and promoted to associate professor this fall at Stockholm University’s Institute for International Economic Studies. Mitman has also been appointed joint managing editor of *The Review of Economic Studies*, starting in December 2019. ▼

JOB MARKET CANDIDATES

SUSANNA BERKOUWER

(UC Berkeley)



Job Market Paper:

“Credit and Attention in the Adoption of Profitable Energy Efficient Technologies in Kenya”

What drives the under-adoption of energy efficient technologies by low-income households?

Using an RCT with 1,000 households in Nairobi, we find that a modern cookstove generates annual fuel savings of \$120, or 300% annual returns, and annual environmental improvements of \$104, but average WTP is only \$12. We find that credit doubles WTP and closes the energy-efficiency gap. Interestingly, by moving costs into the future, we find credit works in part through psychological channels. These findings inform regulation of pollution externalities: Pigovian taxes such as carbon taxes are no longer the optimal policy in settings with large credit constraints.

SCOTT DELHOMMER

(University of Texas-Austin)



Job Market Paper:

“High School Role Models and Minority College Achievement”

I present the first evidence of the effect of high school students matching with same-race teachers on college outcome, as well as the first evidence of long-run effects of race-matching on Hispanic and Asian students. Race-matching raises minority students’ course performance as well as improves longer-term outcomes like high school graduation and college enrollment.

I show, using Monte Carlo simulations, that if the teaching population were more representative, it would greatly benefit minority students, with minimal negative trade-offs impacting the white student population. ▼

NOTES FROM THE PROFESSION: *Double Dutch - A Conversation between Vincent Sterk and Ralph De Haas*

- continued from page 1

Ralph: When did you move to London as an assistant professor at UCL?

Vincent: In 2011. When I moved, we were introduced by a common friend and colleague, Marcelina Oosthoek. Did you know her from the central bank's LGBT Network?

Ralph: I knew her well before that; we had friends in common and used to go clubbing in Amsterdam in the '90s! She contacted me, told me that a very nice young economist was moving to London and that it was my gay duty to meet up and introduce you to London.

Vincent: I got to know Marcelina because she was in charge of the central bank's boat for the gay-pride parade through Amsterdam's canals.

Ralph: Bless her, she is perfect. Every organization that takes LGBT inclusiveness seriously needs a Marcelina. Were you part of the LGBT network at De Nederlandsche Bank?

Vincent: Yes, it was quite informal, mainly drinks and similar events. I really enjoyed participating in the canal pride parade with them in Amsterdam; it is quite a spectacle! Does EBRD have a network?

Ralph: Yes, it's called Spectrum. They organize drinks, film screenings in our auditorium, and also panel discussions. What about UCL?

Vincent: There is a student network and also a staff network called We Are Out@UCL. It's a bit more, well, academic. "Advanced-level LGBTQ+," so to say. Events on queer identity and the lot. Great work, though.

Ralph: I think having an LGBT network is particularly important at EBRD, as we have resident offices in our countries of operations. That includes many places where being gay is still very much frowned upon. So for colleagues working there, both locals and expats, it is important to have a network that they can resort to in case of problems, like bullying. The same holds for people in our London HQ who travel to these countries, of course.

Vincent: How do you approach such travel? How "out" are you?

Ralph: Well, for me it is easy because I only travel for short periods of time, to supervise field experiments or to give a

presentation in a resident office. I always try to sneak in a mention of "my husband" or something like that because I think it is important to show younger colleagues that being "out" does not harm your career at EBRD.

Vincent: Do you think role models are important?

Ralph: Yes, and small things can make a big difference. For instance, I make a point of having a small rainbow flag on my Twitter account. It is a silly thing but at the same time very visible. What about you? You interact a lot with students, so do you think of yourself as a role model?

Vincent: Not really, but I do have a personal profile on the We Are Out@UCL website. There is a short interview about my coming out and my LGBTQ+ role models. So that is good for visibility, I think.

Ralph: Tell me more about your research agenda at UCL.

Vincent: I do macro and monetary economics. One part of my research agenda focuses on the implications of household inequality for the business cycle and for monetary policy. Another part concentrates on the impact of micro-level firm behavior on the macro economy. For instance, I have looked at what types of start-up firms enter during booms and recessions, and how this can create persistent effects in the macroeconomy in later years.

Ralph: Frank, your husband, is a stock analyst and investor. Is there any overlap in your interests, or are the academic and practical worlds too far apart to have a meaningful dinner conversation?

Vincent: I think it is mainly a one-directional conversation that I benefit from. It is interesting to hear how companies are managed, how CEO quality differs, and how corporate strategies are developed. That practical angle is very interesting. Do you discuss economics with your husband?

Ralph: He is an architect, so our professional lives are a bit further apart. But he does read my papers, or at least the intro, which is quite sweet. Next topic: Do you feel less at home in the economics profession as compared with, say, a counterfactual straight Vincent?

Vincent: That is difficult to say. I don't think so, but counterfactuals are always tricky. There is the occasional slightly uncomfortable situation of course.

- continued on page 6

NOTES FROM THE PROFESSION: *Double Dutch - A Conversation between Vincent Sterk and Ralph De Haas*

- continued from page 5

Ralph: Such as?

Vincent: After seminar talks I will often get asked what my wife does for a living.

Ralph: How do you respond to that?

Vincent: I will set the record straight immediately, and it is fine. I think that within economics, macroeconomics is perhaps one of the subdisciplines that is the most “old-boys network” like. This is perhaps also why it is perceived as one of the parts of the economics profession that is the least women-friendly. Having said that, I seldom feel really uncomfortable.

Ralph: There is a difference between not feeling uncomfortable and feeling at ease. Someone may still feel excluded from time to time because they do not feel part of the chummy insiders’ network. For instance, while I enjoy going to conferences, the type of people I interact with there are more homogenous than the people I deal with in my private life. For straight men, the overlap between private and professional life is often bigger and there may be advantages to that. I realized this when I presented at a conference in Venice a few years ago. One of the other presenters, Nick Papageorge, used the word “fabulous” twice within the first minute of his presentation, so that was a bit of a give-away.... When he and I found out that there was another gay guy presenting, the whole conference got a different dynamic, and it was *so much fun*. Compare that to being seated at a conference dinner table with only straight men and the topic inevitably turns to football.... So, I do sometimes feel that at a subtle level there is a type of camaraderie or bonhomie that I miss out on. Weirdly, I have gotten so used to that, that I only realize it in the few instances when the dynamic is different because other gay men are present.

Vincent: Recognizable. Also: I always get suspicious when people describe another colleague as a “good guy.” What does that even mean? Is that just a statement about someone’s academic credentials, like being smart or a trustworthy coauthor? Or does it imply more, in the sense that someone complies with certain norms?

Perhaps you can tell me a bit more about your role as Director of Research at EBRD.

Ralph: I head a team of research economists in our Office

of the Chief Economist. We do rigorous academic research that at the same time informs the bank’s operations or strategy, either directly or indirectly. It should help us better understand the economic issues that continue to plague the countries that we invest in.

Vincent: Is that a difficult balance to get right?

Ralph: Not necessarily. I think there is a pretty large intersection between research that is of relevance to EBRD as a development institution and research that can be published well. An important part of my job, besides my own research agenda on finance and development, is to identify such opportunities. For instance, one of our research economists, Cagatay Bircan, has set up a really cool research agenda on private equity in emerging markets. This is a key area for EBRD, as we are limited partners in many PE funds. At the same time, it is also an under-researched area where a clear contribution can be made academically, especially because we have nice in-house data to exploit.

Vincent: Last question: Is there something that you would like to see changed in the economics profession?

Ralph: That’s difficult. Not very original, but less compartmentalization between subdisciplines would be good. I am a financial economist with an interest in development and it is still remarkable to see how separate different parts of the professions are. What about you?

Vincent: It would be good if networks based on pedigree and personal relations became a bit less important, creating fewer biases. I say this even though I know networks can also be very useful and I certainly benefit from them myself. In any case, I think that this process may already be under way. ▼



RESEARCH REVIEW: *Effects of Access to Legal Same-Sex Marriage on Marriage and Health: Evidence from BRFSS**- continued from page 2*

are married by 3.7 percentage points (pp) (78.7%) for women and 5.7 percentage points (41.9%) for men relative to the pre-reform mean.

On health outcomes:

- Access to legal same-sex marriage increases the probability that men in same-sex households are insured (4.2 pp), have a usual source of care (4.2 pp), and had a checkup in the past year (7.3 pp), but no effect on self-reported health, substance use, or preventative care.
- There is no strong evidence of any effects of access to legal same-sex marriage on women's health outcomes, including insurance coverage, access to healthcare, self-reported health, substance use, or preventative care.
 - The weaker evidence among women may be due to the inability to observe out-of-state marriages, which women—who are more likely to have children—may have been more likely to complete, as well as the decreased precision with which the authors identify lesbians and bisexual women in same-sex female households.

- In studies of marriage among different-gender couples, women have weaker positive health outcomes of marriage.

DISCUSSION

Carpenter, Eppink, Gonzales, and McKay offer an interesting and convincing examination of the causal effect of access to legal same-sex marriage on marriage take-up and health outcomes for partnered women and men. Improved data quality on LGBT individuals and couples, combined with important legal victories, offer researchers the opportunity to not only better understand the particular economic changes and challenges faced by LGBT individuals and couples, but also to learn more about behavioral responses to legislation more generally.

On another note, there is a larger debate unfolding in the profession about gender equity, including the citation rate of women compared to men. This paper cites 94 individuals total, 49 of whom appear to be women, which we believe is an important and notable positive characteristic of the paper. ▼

EVENTS PHOTO GALLERY

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) LGBTQI Community Meeting November 8, 2019 — Denver, CO



American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)

LGBTQ Happy Hour

June 24, 2019 — Washington, DC



American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)

LGBTQ Happy Hour

June 24, 2019 — Washington, DC



American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)

LGBTQ Happy Hour

June 24, 2019 — Washington, DC



American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)

LGBTQ Happy Hour

June 24, 2019 — Washington, DC



MAYNARD'S NOTES



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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN
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