BOCAR ABDOULAYE BA

sites.google.com/view/bocarba bocarba@uchicago.edu

Office Contact Information

The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy Studies 1155 E. 60th Street Chicago, IL 60637 773-816-6736

Education

The University of Chicago, 2013 to present Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy Thesis Title: "Essays in Labor Economics and Police Accountability" Expected Completion Date: June 2018

M.P.P., Public Policy, University of Chicago, 2011-2013 M.A., Economics, University of British Columbia, 2009-2010 B.Sc., Economics and Finance, Université du Québec à Montréal, 2006-2008

References:

Professor Christian Hansen Univ. of Chicago, Booth School of Business chansen1@chicagobooth.edu (773) 834-1702

Professor Steven Levitt (Co-Chair) Univ. of Chicago, Department of Economics slevitt@uchicago.edu (773) 834-1862 Professor Robert LaLonde (Co-Chair) University of Chicago, Harris School r-LaLonde@uchicago.edu

Professor Jens Ludwig University of Chicago, Harris School <u>jludwig@uchicago.edu</u> (773) 834-0811

(773) 834-3440

Fields:

Applied Econometrics, Labor Economics, Economics of Crime, Law and Economics

Research Papers:

 "Going the Extra Mile: the Cost of Complaint Filing, Accountability, and Law Enforcement Outcomes in Chicago" (Job Market Paper)

In the attempt to protect and serve the community, police often receive complaints from civilians with whom they interacted. This setting makes policing fraught with agency problems. I use new, detailed administrative data to study the costs and benefits associated with filing a complaint against the police in Chicago. I exploit the fact that complaints without affidavits are considered null and variation in distance to the oversight agency to study the effect of civilian oversight on policing. An administrative change of location of the reporting center provides a quasi-experimental setup for the identification strategy. A difference-in-differences analysis suggests that a one

standard deviation increase in traveling distance to the reporting center decreases the likelihood of a signed complaint by 6.2 percent for allegations of constitutional violations and 16.3 percent for failure to provide service complaints. In non-white residential areas, higher injury rates due to use of force and a higher level of force used per arrest were observed as distance from the reporting center increased. Individuals who benefit most from oversight are those with lowest valuation of complaining. I simulate counterfactual scenarios under a policy that would reduce the cost of signing the complaint. This policy would largely increase the number of investigations and the sustained rates for failure to provide service complaints in the most violent police districts. On the other hand, for allegations of constitutional violations, this policy would reduce sustained rates overall and marginally increase the number of investigations. This research sheds light on the tradeoffs that arise when increasing the cost of reporting police misconduct.

• "The Introduction of Tasers and Police Use of Force: Evidence from the Chicago Police Department" (with Jeffrey T. Grogger)

We study police use force. In March 2010, the Chicago Police Department changed its Taser policy, issuing the weapons to patrol officers instead of largely restricting their use to sergeants. We used that policy change to obtain difference-in-difference estimates of how the availability of Tasers affected the types of force employed by police, the total number of use-of-force incidents, injury rates per incident, the total number of injuries, and the race distribution of civilians involved in use-of-force incidents. The policy change initially led to a large increase in the use of Tasers, with limited substitution from other types of force. After a period of re-training, substitution between Tasers and other types of force, both greater and lesser, increased. Police injuries fell, but neither injury rates nor the number of injuries to civilians were affected. There is no evidence that Tasers led to a reduction in police use of firearms.

Publications:

• "Estimating (easily interpreted) dynamic training effects from experimental data" (with John C. Ham, Robert J. LaLonde, and Xianghong Li), Journal of Labor Economics, 35(S1), (2017): S149-S200.

We estimate the effect of endogenous training participation on transitions in and out of employment for disadvantaged women in the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) study. Decomposing the effect of training on employment into its effects on transitions in and out of employment has the potential to develop more effective programs. We also consider a potentially serious identification problem that arises when individuals do not undertake training immediately, and we propose a test to shed light on this problem. We find that this problem is not important in our context. JTPA classroom training substantially reduced unemployment durations, and thus it complements programs that increase employment durations.

Teaching Experience: Graduate

Fall 2015, 2016, 2017 Statistical Method

Statistical Methods and Applications for Public Policy, TA for Amy

Claessens and Dan Black

Spring 2017 Program Evaluation, TA for Jeffrey Grogger

Math. Statistics for Public Policy II TA for Dan Black and Jeffrey Winter 2016, 2017

Grogger

Undergraduate

Winter 2015 Economics and International Health, TA for Daniel Bennett Winter 2010 Introduction to Macroeconomics, TA for Robert Gateman

Fall 2008, Winter 2009 Introduction to Econometrics, TA for Phil Merrigan and Steve Ambler

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2011-Present	University of Chicago, Research Assistant for Robert Lalonde
2016-Present	Invisible Institute, Research Fellow
2014-2016	University of Chicago, Research Assistant for Dan Black
2012-2013	University of Chicago, Research Assistant for Daniel Bennett
2008-2011	UQAM, Research Assistant for Phil Merrigan and Pierre Lefebvre
2009-2010	Analysis Group, Intern Economist

Presentations

2017	Yale (Institute for Network Science), APPAM, Transatlantic
	Workshop in the Economics of Crime
2016	Princeton, Chicago Booth Fama-Miller, APPAM
2015	Chicago Fed (Conference in Honor of Robert LaLonde), APPAM

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:		
2013-2018	Harris School of Public Policy Fellowship	
2014-2017	NORC Fellowship	
2011-2013	University of Chicago Dean's Scholarship	
2011	CIRPEE Scholarship	
2009-2010	Analysis Group Fellowship	
2009-2010	UBC Graduate Scholarship	

Personal Information:

Sex: Male

Citizenships: France, Senegal, Canadian (Permanent Resident)

Languages: English, French (native), Fulani (native)