

# Brett A. McCully

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## Education

Ph.D. Economics, UCLA, Expected June 2021.

*Dissertation:* Immigrants, Legal Status, and Illegal Trade

*Committee:* Jonathan Vogel (chair), Adriana Lleras-Muney, Emily Weisburst, Felipe Goncalves, Pablo Fajgelbaum, and Randall Kuhn

M.A. Economics, UCLA, 2016.

B.A. Mathematics and Economics, University of Virginia, 2013.

## Research and Teaching Interests

Illegal Trafficking, Drugs and Crime, Immigration and Crime, Advanced Quantitative Methods, Economics of Crime

## Research

### *Publications*

Geng Li and **Brett A. McCully**. "Is Underemployment Underestimated? Evidence from Panel Data," May 2016, FEDS Notes.

**Brett A. McCully**, Karen Pence, and Daniel Vine. "How Much Are Car Purchases Driven by Home Equity Withdrawal? Evidence from Household Surveys," 2019, Vol. 51, No. 5, *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*.

### *Working Papers*

**Brett A. McCully**. "Immigrants, Legal Status, and Illegal Trade." (job market paper)

Nearly \$2 trillion worth of illegal goods are trafficked across international borders per year, generating violence and other social costs along the way. Some have controversially suggested that restricting immigration may reduce trafficking, but data limitations have precluded rigorous analysis of this hypothesis. In this paper, I use novel data on nearly 10,000 confiscations of illegal drugs in Spain to study how immigrants and immigration policy affect the pattern and scale of illegal drug trafficking. Exploiting the interaction between push and pull forces that drive immigration flows, I generate exogenous variation in the number of immigrants from a given foreign country living in each Spanish province. I find that a 10% larger population of immigrants from a given foreign country relative to the mean raises the value of drugs trafficked from the foreign country into a given province by 12%. Moreover, this relationship is driven entirely by immigrants without legal status. To better understand the role of legal status, I exploit an extraordinary regularization of nearly half a million immigrants in

2005. Event study estimates suggest that providing immigrants a path to citizenship diminishes the role immigrants play in drug trafficking.

### *Works-in-Progress*

Geng Li and **Brett A. McCully**. “Hours Constraints and Home Production.”

Tania Barham, Randall Kuhn, **Brett A. McCully**, and Patrick Turner. “Health, Fertility, and Productivity: Long-term Effects of a Health and Family Planning Program.”

## Employment

UCLA, Research Assistant

California Policy Lab, 2017

Professor Randall Kuhn, 2019

UCLA, Teaching Assistant, 2016–2017

Introductory Macroeconomics, Fall 2016

Introduction to Econometrics, Winter 2017

UCLA, Guest Lecturer

Introduction to Econometrics Lab, Winter 2017 (x1)

Undergraduate Labor Economics, Spring 2019 (x2)

UCLA, Grader

Macroeconomic Theory, Summer 2016

Labor Economics, Fall 2018

Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Research Assistant

Consumer Finance section, 2013-2015

## Honors and Awards

Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Dissertation Fellowship, 2020-2021

Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA, 2020-2021

European Studies Fellowship, UCLA, 2020-2021

Best Paper Award, International Economics Proseminar, 2019-2020

NICHD Traineeship, California Center for Population Research, 2017-2018 and 2019-2020

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA, 2017

Pauley Fellowship, UCLA, 2015-2016 and 2018-2019

## Presentations

APPAM Fall Research Conference (poster, scheduled), November 2020  
 DemSemX Virtual Conference, June 2020  
 International Economics Proseminar, UCLA, multiple  
 Applied Microeconomics Proseminar, UCLA, multiple

## Service

International Economics Student Proseminar organizer, 2018-2020  
 Graduate Students Association Forum member, 2017-2019  
 Graduate Economics Association, Co-President, 2017-2018  
 Social Science Council, Vice President of External Affairs, 2017-2018  
 UCLA Economics PhD Student Mentor, 2016-2018

## References

Jonathan Vogel (main advisor)  
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### *Teaching Reference:*

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