

# Brendan Shanks

PhD Candidate in Economics at Munich Graduate School of Economics

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**Research Interests:** Applied Microeconomics, Labour Economics, Urban Economics, Empirical Economics

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<b>Citizenship</b>	Canadian	<b>Placement Office</b>	<a href="mailto:placement@econ.lmu.de">placement@econ.lmu.de</a>
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## REFERENCES

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<b>Joachim Winter</b> LMU Munich Ludwigstraße 33/III 80539 Munich +49 (0) 89 2180 2459 <a href="mailto:winter@lmu.de">winter@lmu.de</a>	<b>Stephan Heblich</b> Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy 1 Devonshire Place Toronto, ON M5S 3K7 <a href="mailto:stephan.heblich@utoronto.ca">stephan.heblich@utoronto.ca</a>	<b>Davide Cantoni</b> LMU Munich Ludwigstraße 33/IV 80539 Munich +49 (0) 89 2180 6260 <a href="mailto:davide.cantoni@econ.lmu.de">davide.cantoni@econ.lmu.de</a>
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## EDUCATION

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2016 – Current	Ph.D. Economics	LMU Munich
2014 – 2016	M.Sc. Economics	LMU Munich
2008 – 2012	B.Comm., with distinction	University of Alberta

## RESEARCH VISITS

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Feb/Mar 2020	University of Toronto	Host: Stephan Heblich
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## JOB MARKET PAPER

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**Land Use Regulation and Housing Development: Evidence from Tax Parcels and Zoning Bylaws in Massachusetts.** Find latest version [here](#).

*Land use regulations come in a wide variety of forms and govern how development occurs. They restrict housing development resulting in housing supply being less responsive to demand shocks. Yet little is known on what facets of residential development are most impacted, hindered by lack of comprehensive data on land use regulation stringency. I address this shortcoming by compiling a novel measure of land use regulation based on applying natural language processing techniques to over 40,000 pages of zoning bylaw texts. Utilizing a spatial regression discontinuity design around municipal borders, I find that stringent land use regulations reduce housing supply primarily through increasing the land usage per house. Strongly regulated localities do not compensate by developing more land overall. These results highlight how regulations like minimum lot sizes and setback requirements pose barriers to housing development in high-growth regions.*

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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**Identifying and Teaching High-Growth Entrepreneurship: Experimental Evidence from Entrepreneurship Academies for University Students in Uganda** (with Vojtěch Bartoš, Kristina Czura, Michael Kaiser, and Timm Opitz)

*We disentangle the extent to which entrepreneurial success can be attributed to skill formation and to selection. To study skill formation of nascent entrepreneurs among Ugandan university students, we randomly accept applications to a business training program fostering an entrepreneurial mindset. We measure labor market outcomes, business creation and success, and cognitive and non-cognitive skills as key outcomes up to three years after program participation. To better understand individual motivation for entrepreneurship, we experimentally vary marketing messages to all interested students prior to their application decision, emphasizing either entrepreneurial profit or entrepreneurial freedom. Lastly, we describe endogenous self-selection through nonexperimental comparisons of key outcomes among applicants and eligible students from the same population who were aware of the entrepreneurship training program but did not express interest.*

## PRESENTATIONS

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2020	10 <sup>th</sup> European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (LSE) <sup>†</sup> , Virtual Urban Economics Association Meeting 2020, EDGE Jamboree 2020 (discussant, virtual)
2019	Inaugural Munich Young Economists' Meeting (Kochel am See), Urban Economics Association Summer School (LSE)
2017	Colloquium on Personnel Economics (Munich)

## EXPERIENCE

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2016–Present	<b>Research and Teaching Associate</b> , Chair of Empirical Economic Research, LMU Munich
2010–2016	<b>Project Accountant</b> , Business By Numbers
2014–2015	<b>Research Assistant</b> , Munich Graduate School of Economics

## TEACHING

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2020	Course <i>Microeconometrics</i>	Graduate, TA
	Course <i>Econometrics</i>	Graduate, TA
2019	Seminar <i>Empirical Analysis of Social Policy</i>	Undergraduate, TA
	Course <i>Econometrics</i>	Graduate, TA
	Seminar <i>Empirical Health Economics</i>	Undergraduate, TA
2018	Course <i>Econometrics</i>	Graduate, TA
2017	Course <i>Empirical Economics II</i>	Undergraduate, TA
	Course <i>Econometrics</i>	Graduate, TA
	Course <i>Topics in Applied Econometrics</i>	Graduate, TA

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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Conference Organization:	Inaugural Munich Young Economists' Meeting (Kochel am See)
Conference Referee:	Inaugural Munich Young Economists' Meeting (Kochel am See)

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<sup>†</sup>Cancelled due to Covid-19

## **AWARDS & FUNDING**

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2016–Present	Research Training Group, German Research Foundation (DFG)
2010	Jason Lang Scholarship, Bon Voyage Scholarship
2009	Dean's Honour Role, Jason Lang Scholarship
2008	Rutherford Scholarship

## **TECHNICAL**

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R, Python, Stata, QGIS, GNU Make, Git, Bash, SQL, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, MS Office

## **LANGUAGES**

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English (native), German (proficient), French (basic)

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