



CURRICULUM VITAE

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economics (KTH 426)
McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON, Canada
L8S 4M4

Email: malakn@mcmaster.ca
Website: <https://nmalak.wordpress.com/>

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: Canadian
Languages: English (native), French (basic), Greek (proficient)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, McMaster University, Canada	2013- Present
Thesis title: "Essays in Health Economics"	
Expected completion date: Spring 2018	
M.A. in Economics, University of Toronto, Canada	2012
B.B.A., Schulich School of Business, Canada	2011

RESEARCH FIELDS

Health, Labour, Public Policy, Population Economics

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

The William Henry Yates Scholarship, 2017
Canadian Population Society Student Paper Award, 2016
C.D. Howe Memorial Foundation Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2016 & 2017
Canadian Women Economists Network Travel Award, 2016
Canadian Economics Association Travel Grant, 2016
Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Government of Ontario, 2015- Present
Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Master's Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2011
Undergraduate Entrance Scholarship, Schulich School of Business, York University, 2007

GROUP AFFILIATIONS

The Canadian Research Data Centre Network (deemed employee of Statistics Canada), 2014- Present
The Public Economic Data Analysis Laboratory, 2014-Present
The Health Economics at McMaster Group, 2013-Present



PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH PAPERS

Job Market Paper

Malak, Natalie. 2017. "When Good Fences Aren't Enough: The Effect of Neighboring Air Pollution on Infant Health Outcomes."

Completed Work

Malak, Natalie. 2017. "Nurse Absenteeism and Benefit Generosity: Evidence from Canada." *Journal of Health and Human Services Administration* 40(1): 44-78.

Malak, Natalie, and Sweetman, Arthur. 2016. "Nursing Wages in Ontario: A Historical Summary." Report to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Work under Review

"A Re-Examination of the Effects of Tort Reforms on Obstetrical Procedures and Health Outcomes" with Y. Tony Yang (George Mason University)

"Baby Bonus, Anyone? Examining Heterogeneous Responses to a Pro-Natalist Policy" with Mahbubur Rahman (McMaster University), and Terry Yip (McMaster University); Recipient of Canadian Population Society Student Paper Award, 2016

"C-Sections and Lawyers' Fees: The Effects of Contingency Fee Reform on Maternal and Infant Health"

Work In Progress

"Do class-size reductions have unintended consequences?" with Michael Baker (University of Toronto) and A. Abigail Payne (University of Melbourne)

"How Expanded Job-Protected Maternity Leave Affects Female Labour Supply"

"The Effect of Superfund Cleanups on Infant Health Outcomes"

CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

American Economic Association Annual Conference (poster), Philadelphia, January 2018

Health Economics at McMaster Seminar Series, Hamilton, September 2017

Health and Labour Policy Evaluation Conference, Paris, February 2017

Canadian Economics Association Annual Conference, Ottawa, June 2016

The Canadian Health Economists' Study Group Annual Conference, Ottawa, June 2016

American Society of Health Economists Biennial Conference (poster), Philadelphia, June 2016

Health Economics at McMaster Seminar Series, Hamilton, March 2016



RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Consultant for Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, 2016
Research Assistant for Prof. Jeremiah Hurley, McMaster University, 2014- Present
Research Assistant for Prof. Laura Turner, University of Toronto, 2012
Research Associate for Prof. Moshe Milevsky, Quantitative Wealth Management Analytics Group, 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Intermediate Microeconomics, McMaster University, Summer 2015
Overall teaching effectiveness evaluation: 9/10, response rate: 17/34

Guest Lecturer

Advanced Econometrics, McMaster University, Winter 2016
Economics of Labour Market Issues, McMaster University, Winter 2015
Public Policy towards Business, McMaster University, Spring 2014

Teaching Assistant

Economics of Professional Sports, McMaster University, Spring, 2016
Introductory Macroeconomics, McMaster University, Fall 2013 & Spring 2016
Intermediate Microeconomics, McMaster University, Winter & Spring 2014
Mathematics for Economics, McMaster University, Fall 2013
Introductory Microeconomics, McMaster University, Winter 2013
Introduction to Economics, University of Toronto, Fall 2011 & Winter 2012

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee for the *Canadian Journal of Economics*

REFERENCES

Prof. Philip DeCicca (supervisor)
Department of Economics (on leave)
McMaster University
decicca@mcmaster.ca
+ 1 (905) 525-9140 ext. 24129

Prof. Jeremiah Hurley
Dean of Social Sciences
McMaster University
hurley@mcmaster.ca
+ 1 (905) 525-9140 ext. 26156

Prof. Arthur Sweetman
Department of Economics
McMaster University
arthur.sweetman@mcmaster.ca
+ 1 (905) 525-9140 ext. 23218

Prof. Michael Veall
Department of Economics
McMaster University
veall@mcmaster.ca
+ 1 (905) 525-9140 ext. 23829



DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

“When Good Fences Aren’t Enough: The Effect of Neighboring Air Pollution on Infant Health Outcomes.” (Job Market Paper)

The Clean Air Interstate Rule enforced the reduction of power plant emissions on neighboring downwind counties in the eastern United States. This paper examines the vast improvement on birth outcomes due to the implementation of this policy. When examining the proportion of premature births, and the incidence of low and very low birth weight among singleton babies, female babies experience statistically significant improvements. However, given the baby is full term it is male babies that will experience an increase in birth weight, demonstrating an improvement in intrauterine growth due to lower power plant emissions. There is also a reduction in infant mortality for babies whose mothers were categorized as high-risk pregnancies.

“C-Sections and Lawyers’ Fees: The Effects of Contingency Fee Reform on Maternal and Infant Health”

In November 2004, Nevada enacted a limit on contingency fees for lawyers in medical malpractice cases. Generally, such limits are thought to change the composition of liability cases as they induce lawyers to drop more frivolous cases in favour of ones involving death and serious injury. Inadvertently, obstetricians faced a greater fear of litigation. Applying synthetic control methods, I find a 2.8 percentage point increase in the C-section rates of high school dropout patients, translating to a ten percent increase after the reform. There is no statistically significant difference in C-section rates after the enactment of the reform on patients with at least a college degree, and further, no statistically significant effect on infant mortality. Limiting contingency fees in medical malpractice cases induces obstetricians to engage in defensive medicine by performing more C-sections on low income patients, illustrating that tort reform can alter physician procedural patterns, albeit in heterogeneous ways.

“A Re-Examination of the Effects of Tort Reforms on Obstetrical Procedures and Health Outcomes” with Y. Tony Yang (George Mason University)

Numerous papers examined the effects of tort reforms on physician behavior using data from the 1990s. However, a medical malpractice “crisis” in the early 21st century saw many US states adopt tort reforms to alleviate this issue. Using data from 1995 to 2012 we observe that tort reforms are not as effective as they once were. However, we find evidence that physicians’ procedural choices are affected by tort reforms. Not only are C-section rates and “preventable” complications affected by tort reforms, but we also observe that tort reforms influence physicians’ decisions with non-risky patients.