Liam Puknys

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Maryland, expected 2028
M.A. in Economics, University of Maryland, 2025
B.A. in Mathematics with honors, B.A. in Economics, University of Chicago, 2020

WORKING PAPERS

Returns Depend on Who Gets What: Skill and Investment Are Complements, but Marginal Returns Favor Low-Skill Children

Observed and Unobserved Variables in Educational Treatment Effects – with Alejandra Montoya-Agudelo and Sergio Urzua

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Parent and Neighborhood Effects in Human Capital Development

RESTING PAPERS

Social Learning and Poverty Traps

GIV: An Instrumental Variables Approach to Correcting for Endogenous Error in Matching Datasets

Migration, Equality of Opportunity, and Interpreting Intergenerational Mobility

PUBLICATIONS

Introducing CARTS: A New Index Tracking National Retail Spending, with Scott Brave, Ross Cole, Michael Fogarty, and Ezra Karger, 2021, *Chicago Fed Insights*

The Stone-Weierstrass Theorem, 2017, *University of Chicago Mathematics REU 2017 Papers*

TEACHING

2026 Empirical Microeconometrics, teaching assistant (PhD)
2026 Intermediate Microeconomics, teaching assistant (Undergraduate)
2025 Empirical Microeconometrics, teaching assistant (PhD)
2025 Health Economics, instructor (Undergraduate)
2025 Health Economics, teaching assistant (Undergraduate)
2024 American Economic History Before the Civil War, teaching assistant (Undergraduate)
2024 Principles of Microeconomics, teaching assistant (Undergraduate)
2023 Principles of Microeconomics, teaching assistant (Undergraduate)

RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 2020-2023
Collegiate Associate, Manhattan Institute, 2023
Research Assistant, Prof. Derek Neal, University of Chicago Economics Department, 2019-2020
Research Assistant, Prof. Austin Wright, Harris School of Public Policy, 2019

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2026 Dean's Research Initiative, University of Maryland
2025 Adam Smith Fellow, Mercatus Center; Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant and International Conference Student Support Award, University of Maryland
2016 Dean's Scholar, University of Chicago

CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2026 Economics Graduate Student Conference, Washington University, St. Louis; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Center for the Economics of Human Development, University of Chicago; Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; Markets and Society, George Mason University; Liberty Fund Mercatus Center
2025 Aix-Marseille School of Economics; Mercatus Center

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Economics Graduate Student Association, 2025-
Research Assistant Seminar Coordinator at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 2021-2022

OTHER SERVICE

Kairos Prison Ministry; Maryland Correctional Institute, Jessup 2024-2026
- Assistant Table Leader 2024-2025
- Chapel Coordinator 2025
- Inside Coordinator 2026
- Continuing Ministry Coordinator 2026
- Institutional Liaison 2026

Kairos Prison Ministry; Jessup Correctional Institute 2026