Benjamin Roble

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

Ph.D. in Applied Economics, Northeastern University — Expected May 2027

M.S. in Economics, Northeastern University — December 2023

B.S. in Economics (*summa cum laude*), University of Mississippi — May 2022

Research Interests

My primary field is empirical Industrial Organization with focuses on governmental EV policy and vertical restraints. Other interests include competition policy and merger analysis.

Working Papers

"Simulated Welfare Effects of the EU's EV Transition"

The European Union aims to have nearly all new cars be electric by 2035 utilizing a series of progressively stricter automaker emission targets. Car manufacturers either can comply with the standard or pay a fine commensurate to their emissions deviation from the target. The scale of the EU's program is unprecedented, and until now EV transitions have been largely theoretical. This paper simulates the short-run effects of the future EU emission targets on total welfare and average car emissions. I first estimate automobile demand using 2023-2024 data on new car registrations and car list prices in France, Germany, and Italy. I then construct a Nash-Bertrand equilibrium model of profit maximization with respect to the EU emission standard. Automakers face heterogeneous compliance costs, but the model does not strictly bind them to the target. Firms are free to choose to over-pollute and pay the corresponding fine. Implementing the EU's future emission targets in 2024, I find the EU could reach the 2025 target with only a 1.18% decrease in welfare. The stricter targets beginning in 2030 are unachievable and result in significant drops in consumer surplus and profits. Manufacturers' ability to lower emissions by lowering EV prices is constrained by contemporaneous EV demand. Average car emissions in the EU reach a basin of 78 g/km with the 2030 and 2035 targets while EV shares plateau at 28%. This suggests the need for policymakers to establish programs to concurrently boost consumer EV demand.

"The Effect of State Supply Chain Regulations on Retail Alcohol Prices"

Since the end of Prohibition, alcohol has been strictly regulated at the state level. All states independently adopted three-tier systems wherein the different levels of industry (manufacturing, wholesaling, and retailing) are kept separate to varying degrees. This paper is the first to investigate the effect of allowing manufacturer to retailer sales on average state alcohol prices. Using detailed scanner data and exploiting state, temporal, and alcohol type variation in regulation, I find wine is 3.5-4.5% cheaper in states that allow direct sales than in states that forbid them and mixed evidence for beer. No significant price differences is found for liquor. This suggests these supply arrangements are an uncommon industry practice for the latter, in line with documented wholesaler concentration.

Works in Progress

"Determinants of a Successful EV Transition: Evidence from Norway"

This chapter investigates heterogeneity in preferences for EVs between Norwegians and EU citizens and the sensitivity of Norway's high EV share to its remaining sales tax exemption. Combining European new car registration data with Norwegian and EU list prices, I will separately estimate random-coefficients demand for automobiles in Norway and EU countries**.** The juxtaposition of Norwegian and EU demand parameters provides qualitative evidence on whether long-term government EV promotion can positively affect underlying preferences for EVs. I will then test if removing government promotion, via a reimposition of VAT on EVs, would negatively affect their share in Norway's post-transition society.

Research Experience

Graduate Student Researcher, Northeastern University 2025-2026

Helped John Kwoka on an upcoming meta-analysis of merger retrospectives, compiled an exhaustive dataset of recent studies

Research Assistant, Northeastern University 2024-2025

Assisted Shantanu Khanna on studies of affordable housing policy in India, worked with administrative datasets on housing and labour market survey microdata

Research Assistant, Northeastern University Summer 2023

Project with Matthew Ross evaluating Connecticut traffic police reform utilizing a confidential statewide dataset on all reported traffic stops

Teaching

Instructor

Ph.D. Math Camp — Summer 2023-2025

Recitation Instructor

Principles of Microeconomics — 2022-2023, 2026-*present*

Teaching Assistant

Monopolies, Mergers, & Antitrust Economics — Autumn 2025

Principles of Microeconomics — Summer 2025

Economics of Race — Spring 2024-2025

Microeconomic Theory — Autumn 2024

Principles of Macroeconomics — Summer 2024

Economics of Crime — 2023-2024

Statistics for Economists — Summer 2023

Awards

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Economics — 2022

Chancellor's Honor Roll — 2018-2022

Skills

Programming: Python, Stata, LaTeX

Languages: English, German (A1)