

TWISHA ASHER

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EDUCATION

Degrees	CUNY Graduate Center Ph.D. Economics M.Phil. Economics	February 2026 October 2020
	Denison University B.A. Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics, Cum laude	May 2017
Fields	Primary: Applied Microeconomics Secondary: Labor Economics, Public Economics, Econometrics	
Dissertation	<i>Essays on Inheritance: Household Finances, Labor Supply, and Tax Policies</i> Advisor: Prof. Miles Corak	

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper	The Effects of Gifts and Inheritances on Consumption, Homeownership, and Wealth <i>Presented at the Population Association of America's 2026 Annual Meeting</i> <i>Scheduled for oral presentation at the 39th International Association for Research in Income and Wealth Conference (National Bank of Belgium)</i> Americans aged 70 and over own about a third of U.S. wealth, much of which will be transferred over the next decade. However, comprehensive causal evidence on how households allocate gifts and inheritances remains absent. In this study, I use data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (1997–2023) and a modern Difference-in-Differences estimator to assess the effects of transfers on household finances. I find that households most commonly increase expenditures on durable goods expenditures (such as home repairs) by up to \$8,200 in the year of receipt. Conservative back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest that inheritances alone could explain up to \$10.6 billion in spending on durable goods and 8% of new homeownership, annually. The results are consistent with credit constraints and hint at the increasing importance of wealth over income since 2011.	
Publications	Wealth Composition, Distribution, and Transmission: The GC Wealth Project <i>Scientific Data</i> , Forthcoming <i>with Maximilian Longmuir, Franziska Disslbacher, Frincasco Di Biase, Giacomo Rella, Francesca Subioli, Adam Rego Johnson, Severin Rapp, Matteo Targa, Salvatore Morelli, Manuel Schechtel, Luca Giangregorio, Ignacio Flores</i> Nursing Facilities, Food Manufacturing Plants and COVID-19 Cases and Deaths <i>Economics Letters</i> , 2021 <i>with Partha Deb and Anjelica Gangaram</i>	
Working Papers	Post-Pandemic Changes in Household Food Expenditure: Heterogeneity by Income <i>Under Review at the Economics Bulletin</i> (Invited to Resubmit) <i>Accepted for Poster Session at PAA 2026</i> The GC Wealth Project Data Warehouse v.1.2 – Documentation <i>Stone Center Working Paper Series no. 99</i> , 2024 <i>with Maximilian Longmuir, Franziska Disslbacher, Frincasco Di Biase, Giacomo Rella, Francesca Subioli, Adam Rego Johnson, Severin Rapp, Matteo Targa, Salvatore Morelli, Manuel Schechtel, Luca Giangregorio, Ignacio Flores</i>	

The GC Wealth Project Data Warehouse v.1 - Documentation

Stone Center Working Paper Series no. 75, 2023

with Salvatore Morelli, Frincasco Di Biase, Franziska Disslbacher, Ignacio Flores, Adam Rego Johnson, Giacomo Rella, Manuel Schechtl, Francesca Subioli, Matteo Targa

Work in Progress

Inheritance Tax Around the Globe Over Two Centuries: Revenue and Distributional Implications

Preparing for submission to the American Economic Journal: Economic Policy with Salvatore Morelli, Luca Giangregorio, Manuel Schechtl, Francesca Subioli

The Evolution of Federal and State-Level Wealth Transfer Tax Policies in the U.S.

Preparing for submission to the Economic History Review

Overview of Major Estate Tax Revenue Estimation Models

Preparing for submission to the International Journal of Microsimulation

Inheritance and Labor Supply: A Replication and Two Extensions

Preparing for submission to the Journal of Comments and Replications in Economics

Presentations

"The Effects of Gifts and Inheritances on Consumption, Homeownership, and Wealth" Population Association of America's 2026 Annual Meeting.

"Inheritance and Mortgage Debt" (Nov. 2022) Workshop on Wealth Inequality & Intergenerational Mobility (Vienna University of Economics and Business).

"Modeling COVID-19: Disease Burdens, Economic Activities, and Policy Outcomes" (May 2020) Department of Economics and The Roosevelt House Public Policy Program Seminar, Hunter College.

"State-Level Inequality and the Decision to Expand Medicaid" (Feb. 2017) The Union for Radical Political Economics at the Eastern Economic Association Conference.

"The Erosion of Democracy: Inequality and the Cost of Capitalism" (Aug. 2015) Research Scholars Showcase, Denison University.

EMPLOYMENT

Primary Instructor

Hunter College

ECO 321: Introduction to Econometrics	2024 - 2025
ECO 345: Labor Economics	2019, 2022
ECO 200: Principles of Microeconomics	2018 - 2022

Research

Hunter College

Researcher (Substitute Distinguished Lecturer) in Health Economics 2024-2025

- Analyzed the effectiveness of medical interventions to reduce sepsis-related mortality.
- Employed quasi-experimental methods on panel data for NIH-funded project.
- Diagnosed issues with Medicare data, identified errors and inconsistencies.

Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, CUNY Graduate Center

Non-Teaching Adjunct 2022-2024

- Writing data guides and overview reports for the G.C. Wealth Project.
- Supervised research assistants in data visualization for reports.

R.A., G.C. Wealth Project, Prof. Salvatore Morelli 2018-2024

- Co-developed a novel database on wealth transfer tax policies using archival sources.
- Synchronized and standardized tax schedules across countries and U.S. states.
- Supervised research assistants in data collection for multi-institutional project.

R.A., Prof. Miles Corak 2018

- Compiled research on intergenerational education mobility across countries.
- Investigated disparities in estimates including methods and data sources.

	Denison University	
	<i>R.A., Student Retention, Office of Institutional Research</i>	2014-2016
	- Led focus groups and analyzed results for common themes and other insights.	
	- Helped design survey instruments.	
	<i>R.A., Prof. Toni King, (Black Studies, Women's and Gender Studies)</i>	2015-2016
	<i>R.A., Prof. Ted Burczak (Economics)</i>	2015
Teaching Assistant	Denison University	
	Multivariable Calculus II	2016-2017
Tutor	Denison University	
	Essentials of Calculus, Single Variable Calculus, Multivariable Calculus	2015-2017
	Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis	2016-2017
Other	CUNY Graduate Center	
	Student Staff, Office of Student Disability Services	2019-2021
	Denison University	
	Senior Interviewer, Office of Admissions	2016-2017
	Researcher on Student Retention, Office of Institutional Research	2015-2016

TEACHING EVALUATIONS

Peer Evaluations	Fall 2021: Principles of Microeconomics <i>Ingmar Nyman, Professor (Economics, Hunter College)</i> Overall Evaluation: Twisha gave a very good lecture. She was well-prepared. The lecture was well organized and easy to follow, and Twisha gave her audience both an outline of what she was going to cover and a link to how it fit with previous material. Twisha is a natural in the classroom. She is, at the same time, relaxed and confident, in complete control as a teacher, and energetic and dynamic. Her presentation was clear and progressed at the right pace. Her report with her students is one of her strong points. She is respectful and friendly, and she makes clear that she really wants them to learn. And, in my opinion, this is an essential ingredient in good teaching. Overall, I think Twisha is an excellent teacher.		
	Fall 2024: Introduction to Econometrics <i>Matthew Baker, Associate Professor (Economics, Hunter College)</i> Overall Evaluation: I thought Twisha did a fine job in leading the class. The presentation was very clear, and students were clearly following along with the material. Students at points had good questions about the material and also how it could be implemented using software like Stata. Students also were willing and able to answer detailed numerical questions about the material.		
Student Scores	Spring 2025: Introduction to Econometrics		
	Section Title	Responses	Overall Average
	ECO 32100 Sec: 01; 1D01 (Lecture and Discussion)	10	6/7
	ECO 32100 Sec: 02; 2D01 (Lecture and Discussion)	10	5.7/7

SERVICE AND AWARDS

Dept. Governance	CUNY Graduate Center, Department of Economics	
	Diversity Committee	2021-2024
	Elections Committee	2018-2022
Fellowships	Advanced Research Collaborative (ARC) Fellowship	2018-2019
	Sallie Mae Fund Student Fellowship	2019-2021
	Stone Center Research Award	2019-2022
Scholarships	University Student Scholarship	2020

	Stone Center Scholarship for the LIS Workshop	2019
	Davis UWC Scholarship (Full Tuition Funding)	2013-2017
Awards	Leland Gordon Prize in Economics	2017

SOFTWARE AND A.I. TOOLS

Software	Data and Statistics	<i>Stata, R, Excel, Python (data processing)</i>
	Word Processors	<i>LaTeX, R Markdown, Microsoft Office Suite</i>
	Version Control	<i>Git/GitHub (basic)</i>
AI Tools	AI Detector	<i>GPTZero (to check source legitimacy)</i>
	Literature Reviews	<i>Elicit, Consensus</i>
	Coding	<i>GitHub Copilot, ChatGPT, Claude, Bard</i>

RESEARCH METHODS

Data	Large databases; data cleaning and management; visualization (<i>Excel, Stata, R</i>)
	Building and linking databases, including policy parameters
	Text extraction (<i>Python</i>)
	Survey and longitudinal data; panel data analysis and fixed effects
	Focus groups and interviews (leading and assisting)
Causal Inference	Difference-in-differences; event studies; instrumental variables; synthetic controls
	propensity score matching; entropy balance; regression discontinuity
Microsimulation	Basic tax revenue estimation models and tax accounting
Qualitative	Case studies, thematic analysis, discourse analysis, grounded theory

CERTIFICATIONS

Employee Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response (ESPARC), Workplace Violence Prevention (WVP), Cybersecurity Awareness, Online Teaching Essentials

REFERENCES

- 1) **Miles Corak**
Professor, Department of Economics, CUNY Graduate Center
Scholar, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality
Email: mcorak@gc.cuny.edu
- 2) **Wim Vijverberg**
Professor, Department of Economics, CUNY Graduate Center
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- 3) **Janet Gornick**
Director, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, CUNY Graduate Center
Email: jgornick@gc.cuny.edu
- 4) **Salvatore Morelli**
Director, the G.C. Wealth Project
Email: salvatore.morelli@uniroma3.it

OTHER DETAILS

Status: Authorized to work in the U.S. without sponsorship (Green Card Holder)

Current Location: Brookline, MA