

Research Interests

Primary Fields: Health Economics and Labor Economics **Secondary Fields:** Health Policy, Applied Microeconomics

Current Position

Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Department of Health Policy & Management Boston, MA
Apr 2023 – Jun 2026

Education

PhD in Economics, Norwegian School of Economics, FAIR Bergen, Norway
Aug 2018 – May 2023

- Dissertation: Essays on Economic Inequality and Mobility
- Supervisors: Aline Bütikofer (primary) and Alexander Willén (secondary)
- PhD Committee: Andreas Haller, Ghazala Azmat, Erik Grönqvist

Visiting Scholar, University of California San Diego, Department of Economics La Jolla, CA
Jan 2022 – Jun 2022

MSc in Economics, Uppsala University Uppsala, Sweden
Aug 2016 – Jun 2018

BSc in Economics and Social Sciences, Vienna University of Economics and Business Vienna, Austria
Oct 2012 – Feb 2016

References

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David C. Chan [✉](#)
Haas School of Business
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Job Market Paper

The Value of (Sub) Specialization: Evidence from Oncology, with David C. Chan, Nancy L. Keating, Bruce E. Landon, and Michael L. Barnett; [Current Draft](#) [✉](#); presented at the [NBER SI 2025 Workshop on Aging](#) [✉](#)

Specialization enhances professional productivity, but its benefits depend on access to the relevant expertise. In oncology, subspecialization—the narrowing of clinical focus within cancer care—has become increasingly common, yet its effects on patient outcomes remain poorly understood. This paper examines the impact of physician subspecialization in medical oncology on patient outcomes, health care spending, and access to innovation. Using detailed US Medicare data on 2.2 million first-time chemotherapy episodes from 2008 to 2020, we exploit quasi-exogenous variation in access to subspecialized oncologists through a differential distance instrument. We find that access to a subspecialist reduces three-year mortality by up to 10% relative to the mean, without increasing total Medicare spending. Subspecialist care also increases the use of newer chemotherapy agents and more than doubles enrollment in clinical cancer trials—particularly for trials aligned with the patient’s cancer type. Falsification and selection analyses support the identifying assumptions and suggest that observed gains reflect differences in treatment pathways rather than patient selection. These findings provide new evidence on the productivity effects of specialization in a non-routine, knowledge-intensive profession, and underscore the organizational trade-offs involved in delivering complex care.

Publications

- Primary Care Clinicians Available for New Patient Visits**, with Katherine Majzoub Morgan and Michael L. Barnett *JAMA Internal Medicine*. [Published Version](#) [↗](#) Jan 2026
- Intergenerational Mobility Trends and the Changing Role of Female Labor**, with Ulrika Ahrsjö and Joachim Kahr Rasmussen *Journal of Human Resources*. [Published Version](#) [↗](#); [arXiv Working Paper](#) [↗](#) Sep 2025
- Subspecialization of Surgical Specialties in the US, 2000-2021**, with David C. Chan, Bruce E. Landon, Nancy L. Keating, Christopher Manz, Jukka-Pekka Onnela, Thomas C. Tsai, Yuhua Zhang and Michael L. Barnett. *JAMA Health Forum*. [Published Version](#) [↗](#) Sep 2025
- Geographic Variation in the Utilization of Cancer Care from Subspecialized Medical Oncologists in the United States: 2008-2020**, Christopher Manz, Arno Cai, David C. Chan, Bruce E. Landon, Nancy L. Keating, Jukka-Pekka Onnela, and Michael L. Barnett. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. [Published Version](#) [↗](#) Aug 2025
- Parenthood and the Gender Gap in Commuting**, with Aline Bütikofer and Alexander Willén. *Journal of Public Economics*, Volume 248. [Published Version](#) [↗](#); [Working Paper](#) [↗](#) Jun 2025
- Inequality in Mortality between Black and White Americans by Age, Place, and Cause, and in Comparison to Europe, 1990-2018**, with Hannes Schwandt, Janet Currie et al. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118 (40). [Published Version](#) [↗](#); [NBER Working Paper](#) [↗](#) Sep 2021
- Income Inequality and Mortality: A Norwegian Perspective**, with Aline Bütikofer and Kjell G. Salvanes. *Fiscal Studies*, 118 (40). [Published Version](#) [↗](#); [Working Paper](#) [↗](#) Apr 2021

Working Papers

- Consequences of Rapid Structural Change - Evidence from Hydropower Expansions.** [Working Paper](#) [↗](#)

Conferences, Seminars and Talks

- CESifo Area Conference on Labor Economics (upcoming), NBER Health and Healthcare Variations across the Population (upcoming), Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting (upcoming), Institute for Advanced Studies (Vienna) 2026
- Winter Workshop of the Austrian Economic Association; American Board of Family Medicine Journal Club; 13th Annual Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center Celebration of Early Career Investigators in Cancer Research; Dana Farber Cancer Institute - Center for Outcomes and Policy Research; NBER Summer Institute Workshop on Aging; Conference of the American Society of Health Economists 2025
- Conference of the European Health Economics Association; Conference of the American Society of Health Economists; Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting 2024
- NOEG Winter Workshop; Conference of the American Society of Health Economists 2023
- Norwegian Young Empirical Economists Workshop; Austrian Economic Association Annual Meeting; FAIR Midway Conference; University of California San Diego Graduate Student Applied Micro Seminar 2022
- Stockholm University; Centre for Health and Fertility in Oslo; Workshop on Gender Inequality in Labour Markets (IAAEU - Trier); Conference of the European Association of Labour Economists; Conference of the European Economic Association; Conference of the European Society of Population Economists; Scandinavian PhD Seminar, European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association 2021

Teaching Experience

- **Inequality, Intergenerational Mobility and Early Childhood**, Guest Lecture, PhD level, Bergen Summer Research School, University of Bergen 2021
- **Econometrics**, Teaching Assistant, MSc level, Norwegian School of Economics
- **Labor Economics**, Teaching Assistant, MSc level, Norwegian School of Economics 2020
- **Empirical Methods and Applications in Macroeconomics and Finance**, Teaching As-

sistant, MSc level, Norwegian School of Economics

- **Macroeconomic Theory and Policy**, Teaching Assistant, MSc level, Norwegian School of Economics
- **Empirical Strategies for Causal Analysis**, Teaching Assistant, MSc level, Norwegian School of Economics

2019

Relevant Positions

Research Assistant, Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS), Department of Health Economics and Health Policy,

Vienna, Austria
Oct 2015 - Jun 2016

Refereeing

Journal of Human Resources, Labour Economics, Scientific Reports, International Tax and Public Finance, Journal of General Internal Medicine

Other Skills

- **Programming:** R (advanced), Shell (proficient), Databricks (proficient), Stata (proficient), SQL (basic), Python (basic)
- **Languages:** German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Norwegian (basic)

Personal Information:

- **Born:** December 21, 1991 - Rosenheim, Germany
- **Citizenship:** Austria, Germany