

Nicholas Decker

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Student in Economics
George Mason University

Expected May 2027

B.S. in Economics
George Mason University

May 2023

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student

August 2023 - Present

- I am researching why there exist such large differences in productivity by firms, and how policy choices can lead to better outcomes.
- I have written over 150 articles for an audience of 1,300 subscribers on my blog "Homo Economicus".

Undergraduate Research Assistant

January 2023 - May 2023

Stephen Hebllich, University of Toronto

- Did archival research into the dispersion of firearms after the Civil War.

WORKING PAPERS

- "Firm Survival and Productivity in the Cotton Textile Industry, 1929-1935"

WORK IN PROGRESS

- "The Welfare Effects of Tariff Exemptions"
- "Should Effective Altruists Have Kids?"
- "The Effects of Portion Size on Obesity: An IO Approach"

SKILLS

- R, Python, Econometrics

AWARDS & HONORS

- Emergent Ventures Grant, Mercatus Center (2024)
- CSPC scholarship recipient (2025)

Professional Activities

- Have written numerous Wikipedia articles on economists, including Pete Klenow, Chang-Tai Hsieh, Chad Jones, Marc Melitz, Dave Donaldson, Arnaud Costinot, Matthew Gentzkow, Nicholas Bloom, Peter Hull, and Rick Hornbeck.
- In the summer of 2022, I matched refugees with sponsors to resettle in the United States.
- In April 2025, I raised \$101,000 for a longitudinal study on trans youth which had its funding cut by Trump.