JO ELLERY

joellery@fas.harvard.edu Cell 231-633-9685 https://hjellery.com/



Education	Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts Ph.D. Business Economics, 2022 to 2027 (expected) B.A. Applied Mathematics, Magna Cum Laude, 2021
Research Interests	Public policy, optimal regulation, optimal taxation, education provision and policy
Fields	Public Economics Macroeconomics
Fellowships & Awards	NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, 2022 Hoopes Prize for Undergraduate Thesis, 2021
Teaching	MBA: Manager's Guide to Leveraging Technology, Harvard Business School, for Prof. Michael Parzen, 2024 Undergraduate: Linear Optimization and Modeling, Harvard University, for Prof. Yiling Chen, 2020; Mathematics for Computation, Harvard University, for Prof. Paul Bamberg, 2019; Privacy and Technology, Harvard University, for Prof. Jim Waldo, 2019
Employment	Bridgewater Associates, Investment Associate, 2021 to 2022
Research Assistance	Research Assistant for Prof. Matthew Weinzierl, HBS, 2019 to 2021 Research Assistant for Prof. Kathryn Sikkink, Harvard Radcliffe Institute, 2018
Papers in Progress	"Audits and Fraud Insurance: Optimizing Borrower Defense to Repayment" Should a social planner provide insurance against fraud in a market where private insurance is unlikely and the planner audits potentially fraudulent firms? I investigate this question in the context of the U.S. borrower defense to repayment regulation, which allows students who have been defrauded by their colleges to have their loans discharged in full or in part. In a model of student choices across universities with endogenous fraud rates, I demonstrate that moral hazard induces a tradeoff between the welfare benefits of insurance and the costs of riskier school choices by students. If moral hazard is low, fraud insurance is beneficial for welfare. Using variation in insurance levels across U.S. presidential administrations, I present evidence that moral hazard in this context is minimal.
	"Public Comment: Impacts of Strategy and Commenter Identity" How do public comments influence the outcome of the regulatory process? Using a unique dataset of comments and regulator responses matched via natural language processing, I investigate the success of comments from various sources and using various strategies, including duplicate comments, negativity and coalition building. I show that different administrations treat different types of commenters differently, and while duplicate comments are less successful in enacting changes, diverse coalitions of commenters are more so.
	"Benefit Based Taxation Can be Redistributive" with Prof. Matthew Weinzierl Contrary to a long-standing concern, we demonstrate that classical benefit-based labor income taxation in the tradition of Smith is consistent with substantial income redistribution through both transfers and negative income tax rates. This result removes an obstacle to the benefit principle's plausibility as the basis of optimal tax policy.

Seminars & Conferences	"Benefit Based Taxation Can be Redistributive," National Tax Association, 2023
Academic Service	Referee for: <i>The Quarterly Journal of Economics, the Review of Economics and Statistics, and Social Choice and Welfare.</i> HBS undergraduate research mentor for PRIMO program, 2024, 2025.
Languages	English (native); Mandarin Chinese (Conversational)
Software skills	Python, R, HTML, CSS, SQL, Matlab, Stata, Latex