"The Returns to College(s): Relative Value-Added and Match Effects in Higher Education"
Wednesday, February 16, 2022
12:00 - 1:30PM PST

Jack Mountjoy
University of Chicago

Biography: Jack Mountjoy is an Assistant Professor of Economics and Robert H. Topel Faculty Scholar at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. His research explores the economics and econometrics of education, labor markets, and social mobility. Prior to joining Chicago Booth, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Economics at Princeton University. He is a Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a Research Affiliate at the University of Chicago Inclusive Economy Lab, MIT Blueprint Labs, and Statistics Norway.

Abstract: Students who attend different colleges in the U.S. end up with vastly different economic outcomes. We study the role of relative value-added across colleges within student choice sets in producing these outcome disparities. Linking administrative high school records, college applications, admissions decisions, enrollment spells, degree completions, and quarterly earnings spanning the Texas population, we identify relative college value-added by comparing the outcomes of students who apply to and are admitted by the same set of institutions, as this approach strikingly balances observable student potential across college treatments.