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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Bates College, 2008 – present.

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2008.
M.S. in Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2005.
B.A. in Mathematics, Williams College, 2000.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

"Mental Health and Employment: The SAD Story." *Economics & Human Biology* (in press).

"Decomposing the Relationship Between Macroeconomic Conditions and Fatal Car Crashes During the Great Recession: Alcohol- and Non-Alcohol-Related Accidents." (with Chad Cotti) *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*, 2011, 11 (1): Topics Article 48.

"Insights on Unemployment, Unemployment Insurance, and Mental Health." *Journal of Health Economics*, 2011, 30 (2): 258-264.

"The Effects of Soft Drink Taxes on Child and Adolescent Consumption and Weight Outcomes." (with Jason Fletcher and David Frisvold) *Journal of Public Economics*, 2010, 94 (11-12): 967-974.

"Taxing Soft Drinks And Restricting Access To Vending Machines To Curb Child Obesity." (with Jason Fletcher and David Frisvold) *Health Affairs*, 2010, 29 (5): 1059-1066.

"Can Soft Drink Taxes Reduce Population Weight?" (with Jason Fletcher and David Frisvold) *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 2010, 28 (1): 23-35.

Working Papers

"Fast Food Prices, Obesity, and the Minimum Wage." (with Chad Cotti).

"The Effect of Earned Income Tax Credit Expansions on the Smoking Behavior of Women." (with Ben Cowan).

"Driving under the influence of obesity: the external costs and benefits of unhealthy behavior" (with Richard Dunn)

Other Publications

"Are Soft Drink Taxes an Effective Mechanism for Reducing Obesity?" (with Jason Fletcher and David Frisvold) *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2011, 30 (3): 655-662.

"The Proof is in the Pudding: Response to Chaloupka, Powell, and Chriqui" (with Jason Fletcher and David Frisvold) *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 30 (3): 664-665.

"Great Recession has a silver (brake) lining: Traffic deaths are down." (with Chad Cotti) *The Portland Press Herald*, January 26, 2011.

"Early Childhood Interventions and Cost-Benefit and Cost-Effectiveness Analyses." (with Barbara Wolfe) In Aidan R. Vining and David L. Weimer (Eds.), *Investing in the Disadvantaged: Assessing the Benefits and Costs of Social Policies*, 2009 (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press).

"Childhood Interventions that May Lead to Increased Economic Growth." (with Barbara Wolfe) *La Follette Policy Report*, 2006, 16(2): 1-14.

Research Press Coverage (Selected)

"Taxing Sodas for a Healthier Economy." *Time*, July 12, 2010.

"Does a Soda Tax Really Curb Consumption?" *The Wall Street Journal Health Blog*, April 1, 2010.

"Soda Taxes Raise Revenue, But Do They Cut Obesity?" *Maine Things Considered* (Radio Interview), October 20, 2009.

"Commentary: Can a Soda Tax Really Curb Obesity?" *Forbes.com*, September 16, 2009.

Grants

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, "The Annual Colby-Bates-Bowdoin Economics Conference," Co-Organizer, 2009-2010 (with Daniel Riera-Crichton) and 2010-2011 (with Steve Meardon).

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Healthy Eating Research, "Evaluating the Effects of 'Easy' State Interventions to Combat Childhood Obesity through Decreasing Soft Drink Consumption: Taxes and Vending Machines," Investigator, 2008 – 2010. PI: Jason Fletcher.

National Institute of Mental Health Pre-Doctoral Training Grant, Trainee, 2004 – 2008. PIs: John Mullahy and Barbara Wolfe.

Presentations

2011: Texas A&M University, Department of Agricultural Economics, College Station, Texas; International Health Economics Association World Congress, Toronto, Canada; University of Maine School of Economics, Orono, Maine; Colby-Bates-Bowdoin Economics Conference, Brunswick, Maine (discussant)

2010: Southern Economic Association Conference, Atlanta, Georgia; Western Economic

Association International Conference, Portland, Oregon (presenter, discussant, and session chair); American Society of Health Economists Conference, Ithaca, New York

2009: Bowdoin College Economics Department, Brunswick, Maine; Association for Public Policy, Analysis, and Management Conference, Washington, D.C.; International Health Economics Association World Congress, Beijing, China (presenter, session organizer, and session chair); The Harvard Center's Public Works in Progress Series, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine

2008: American Society of Health Economists Conference, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina; Congressional Budget Office, Washington, D.C.; Bates College Economics Department, Lewiston, Maine; Wesleyan University Economics Department, Middletown, Connecticut

2007: International Health Economics Association World Congress, Copenhagen, Denmark; University of Wisconsin-Madison, Economics Department, Madison, Wisconsin

2006: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference, Madison, Wisconsin (discussant); National Institute of Mental Health Conference on Health Economics, Washington, D.C. (poster); Wisconsin Economics Association Annual Meeting, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Professional Activities

Reviewer for American Journal of Agricultural Economics; Contemporary Economic Policy; Economics and Human Biology; Economic Inquiry; Empirical Economics; Health Economics; Journal of Health Economics; National Tax Journal; Preventing Chronic Disease

Econometrics Consultant for the The Office of Patient and Population Oriented Research Core Consult Committee, Maine-Harvard Prevention Research Center at the Center for Community and Public Health, University of New England, 2011.

Member of the Scientific Committee for the 8th International Health Economics Association (IHEA) Conference, Toronto, July 2011.

Co-Organizer of the second annual Colby-Bates-Bowdoin Economics Conference, Brunswick, Maine, April 2011.

Co-Organizer of the first annual Colby-Bates-Bowdoin Economics Conference, Lewiston, Maine, April 2010.

Member of the Poster Award Selection Committee for the 7th International Health Economics Association (IHEA) Conference, Beijing, July 2009.

Member of the Scientific Committee for the 7th International Health Economics Association (IHEA) Conference, Beijing, July 2009.

Graduate Student Coordinator for the biennial conference of the American Society of Health Economists (ASHE), University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2006.

Professional Memberships

American Economic Association; American Society of Health Economists; International Health Economics Association

Honors and Awards

Graduate Fellow, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2006 – 2008.

President, John R. Commons Club, University of Wisconsin-Madison Economics Department Student Organization, 2005 – 2006.

University Fellow, Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2003 – 2004.

Teaching

Bates College: Health Economics, Economics of Unhealthy Behaviors, Statistics

Undergraduate Thesis Advising, Bates College Economics Department

2011: "The Determinants of Health Care Expenditures", Doug Compton; "Hospital Closures in New York State as a Function of Demographic Change", Jane He; "Body Mass Index and the Value of a Statistical Life: A Perspective on the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979"; Alex Hegevall-Clarke; "U.S. Agribusiness Externalities' Effect on Health and Education in Proximate Communities", Mike Kelen.

2010: "The Value of Statistical Life: How Cigarettes, Gender, Injury Rates, and Industries Influence U.S. Labor Market Risk Premiums", Masid Cader; "A Hunt for the Source: Is State Mandated Health Insurance the Cause of Rising Health Insurance Costs in Massachusetts?" Joe Cauteruccio; "The Economic Impacts of Wealth Taxation on Charitable Bequest Giving", Ryan Horvath; "Excise Taxes, Alcohol Consumption, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases", Bradley McGraw; "The Effects of Recessions on the Demand for Food Away from Home", Ryan Quinn; "Alcohol Consumption and Obesity: Do Lifestyle Choices Affect Body Mass Index?" Conor Sullivan.

2009: "Can Media Portrayal of Soft Drink Taxation Reduce Population Weight?" Elizabeth Stahler; "ADHD Prescription Medications: An Exploration of the Economic and Societal Health Implications of Direct-to-Consumer Advertising", Steve Coupet; "Education and Mortality: A Study of the United States", Josephine Cutts; "Landscape of the Black Banking Industry: Analysis of Performance and Measurement of Viability", Jonathan Dowdy; "Is Obama Right: Competition in the United States Health Insurance Industry – An Investigation of Plan Cost and Care Quality", Katelyn Drake; "Clinical Trials and PDUFA: Using Clinical Trials as a Proxy for Drug Development and Effects of PDUFA on the Pharmaceutical Industry", Benjamin Levin; "Intangible Capital: An Alternative Measure of the Wealth of Nations", Cameron Picton.

2008: "Returns to Human Capital Investment: The Effect of the Choice of Field of Study in Labor Market Earnings", Walter Weisskopf.

Undergraduate Thesis Advising, Bates College Non-departmental Panelist for Honors

2010: "Structure and Agency in the Health Care Strategies of Uninsured Working Adults", Rachel Eades, Sociology Department.

2009: "The Effects of an Online Cognitive Dissonance Intervention on Maladaptive Body Attitudes", Rachel Ogilvie, Psychology Department.

Service, Bates College

2011: Benefits Task Force; Health Care Task Force; Information Services Advisory Committee; Student Research Committee

2010: Benefits Task Force; Information Services Advisory Committee; Student Research Committee