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Employment

University of Iowa

Department of Economics

Associate Professor, 2016 – present

Henry B. Tippie Research Fellow, 2016 – present

Director of Graduate Studies, 2017 – 2023

Assistant Professor, 2013 – 2016

Institute of Public Health Practice, Research and Policy, Affiliated Faculty, 2025 – present

Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center, Affiliated Faculty, 2015 – present

Obesity Research and Educational Initiative, Affiliated Faculty, 2013 – present

Emory University, Department of Economics, Assistant Professor, 2008 – 2013

University of Michigan, Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research, 2006 – 2008

Additional Professional Appointments

Global Labor Organization, Fellow, 2019 - present

Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Research Fellow, 2017 – present

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)

Research Associate, 2016 – present

Faculty Research Fellow, 2015 – 2016

Institute for Research on Poverty, Faculty Affiliate, 2015 – present

Scholars Strategy Network, 2012 – present

Co-Regional Leader, Iowa chapter, 2016 – 2019

Co-Regional Leader, Atlanta chapter, 2013

Visiting Positions

University of Bologna, 2021, 2024

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Center for Human Capital Studies, 2011 – 2013, 2015

Cornell University, Institute on Health Economics, Health Behaviors & Disparities, October 2012

University of Wisconsin, Institute for Research on Poverty, April 2011

Education

Vanderbilt University, Ph.D., Economics, 2006

Vanderbilt University, M.A., Economics, 2005

Wake Forest University, B.S., Mathematical Economics, 1998

Honors and Awards

Professional Excellence in the Training of Economists Award for Graduate Student Advising,

University of Iowa, 2016, 2020

Journal of Consumer Affairs Best Paper Award, 2018

Recognized for making a positive difference by a member of the University of Iowa graduating classes of 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2021

Certificate of Excellence in Reviewing, Economics of Education Review, 2014

Phi Beta Kappa Excellence in Teaching Award, 2012, 2013

Emory Global Health Institute Faculty Distinction Fund Award, 2008

Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research, 2006 – 2008

Kirk Dornbush Research Assistantship, Vanderbilt University, 2004

Household International Best Research Paper Award, Vanderbilt University, 2004

Publications

“Chain Restaurants Calorie Posting Laws, Obesity, and Consumer Welfare,” (with C. Courtemanche, D. Jimenez-Gomez, M. Ouayogode, and M. Price), *Journal of the European Economic Association*, forthcoming.

“The Use of Precision Epigenetic Methods for the Diagnosis and Care of Stable Coronary Heart Disease Reduces Healthcare Costs,” (with M. Dogan, T. Dogan, K. Abdullahi, T. Koep, and R. Philibert), *Advances in Therapy*, 2024.

“Have States Reduced Obesity by Legislating More Physical Activity in Elementary School?” (with P.T. von Hippel), *Milbank Quarterly*, 2023, 101(1), 204-248.

“Taxes on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages: Political Economy, and Effects on Prices, Purchases, and Consumption,” (with J. Cawley), *Food Policy*, 2023, 117, 102441.

“A Qualitative Study of Factors Influencing Food Choices and Food Sources Among Adults Aged 50 Years and Older During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic,” (with P.J. Brady, N.M. Askelson, H. Thompson, S. Kersten, H. Hopkins, S. Ashida, F. Nothwehr, and B. Janssen), *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, 2023, 123(4), 602-613.

“Perceived Food-Related Responsibilities among Adults Aged 60 Years and Older,” (with P. Brady, N.M. Askelson, H. Thompson, S. Ashida, F. Nothwehr, and B. Janssen), *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*, 2022.

“The Relationship between Political, Economic, Social, and Cultural Vulnerability and Food Insecurity among Adults Aged 50 Years and Older,” (with P. Brady, N.M. Askelson, S. Ashida, F. Nothwehr, and B. Janssen), *Nutrients*, 2021, 13(11), 3896.

“The Pass-Through of a Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages in Boulder, Colorado,” (with J. Cawley, D. Jones, and C. Lensing), *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 2021, 103(3), 987-1005.

“Cost Utility Analyses of an Integrated Genetic-Epigenetic Test for Assessing Risk for Coronary Heart Disease,” (with Y. Jung, T. Dogan, M. Dogan, and R. Philibert), *Epigenomics*, 2021, 13(7), 531-547.

“The Impact of Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Taxes on Purchases: Evidence from Four City-Level Taxes in the US,” (with J. Cawley and D. Jones), *Health Economics*, 2020, 29(10), 1289-1306.

“The Impact of the Philadelphia Beverage Tax on Prices and Product Availability,” (with J. Cawley, A. Hill, and D. Jones), *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2020, 39(3), 605-628.

“Oakland’s Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax: Impacts on Prices, Purchases and Consumption by Adults and Children,” (with J. Cawley, A. Hill, and D. Jones), *Economics and Human Biology*, 2020, 37, 100865, 1-16.

- "Do Targeted Vouchers Instill Habits? Evidence from WIC," (with E. Leslie and J. Price), *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 2020, 38(1), 67-80.
- "The Impact of the Philadelphia Beverage Tax on Purchases and Consumption by Adults and Children," (with J. Cawley, A. Hill, and D. Jones), *Journal of Health Economics*, 2019, 67, 102225, 1-16.
- "The Economics of Taxes on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages: A Review of the Effects on Prices, Sales, Cross-Border Shopping, and Consumption," (with J. Cawley, A.M. Thow, and K. Wen), *Annual Review of Nutrition*, 2019, 39, 317-338.
- "The Contribution of the School Environment to the Overall Food Environment Experienced by Children," (with J. Price), *Southern Economic Journal*, 2019, 86(1), 106-123.
- "The Impact of Expanding Medicaid on Health Insurance Coverage and Labor Market Outcomes," (with Y. Jung), *International Journal of Health Economics and Management*, 2018, 18(2), 99-121.
- "Pass-Through of a Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages at the Philadelphia International Airport," (with J. Cawley and B. Willage), *JAMA*, 2018, 319(3), 305-306.
- "The Relationship between the School Breakfast Program and Food Insecurity," (with J. Fletcher), *Journal of Consumer Affairs*, 2017, 51(3), 481-500.
- "The Pass-Through of Taxes on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages to Retail Prices: The Case of Berkeley, California," (with J. Cawley), *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2017, 36(2), 303-326.
- "The Impact of Social Security Income on Cognitive Function at Older Ages," (with P. Ayyagari), *American Journal of Health Economics*, 2016, 2(4), 463-488.
- "Nutrition and Cognitive Achievement: An Evaluation of the School Breakfast Program," *Journal of Public Economics*, 2015, 124, 91-104.
- "Non-Linear Effects of Soda Taxes on Consumption and Weight Outcomes," (with J. Fletcher and N. Tefft), *Health Economics*, 2015, 24(5), 566-582.
- "Obesity Is Associated with an Increase in Pharmaceutical Expenses among University Employees," (with J. Gazmararian, K. Zhang, and J. Koplan), *Journal of Obesity*, 2015, Article ID 298698.
- "The Long Run Health Returns to College Quality" (with J. Fletcher), *Review of Economics of the Household*, 2014, 12(2), 295-325.
- "The Effect of School Quality on Black-White Health Differences: Evidence from Southern Segregated Schools," (with E. Golberstein), *Demography*, 2013, 50(6), 1989-2012.
- "The Impact of Physical Education on Obesity among Elementary School Children," (with J. Cawley and C. Meyerhoefer), *Journal of Health Economics*, 2013, 32(4), 743-755.
- "School Quality and the Education-Health Relationship: Evidence from Blacks in Segregated Schools" (with E. Golberstein), *Journal of Health Economics*, 2011, 30(6), 1232-1245.
- "College Selectivity and Young Adult Health Behaviors," (with J. Fletcher), *Economics of Education Review*, 2011, 30(5), 826-837.
- "Expanding Exposure: Can Increasing the Daily Duration of Head Start Reduce Childhood Obesity?" (with J. Lumeng), *Journal of Human Resources*, 2011, 46(2), 373-402.

- “The Effects of Soft Drink Taxes on Child and Adolescent Consumption and Weight Outcomes” (with J. Fletcher and N. Tefft), *Journal of Public Economics*, 2010, 94(11-12), 967-974.
- “Investing in Health: The Long-Term Impact of Head Start on Smoking” (with K. Anderson and J. Foster), *Economic Inquiry*, 2010, 48(3), 587-602.
- “Can Soft Drink Taxes Reduce Population Weight?” (with J. Fletcher and N. Tefft), *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 2010, 28(1), 23-35.
- “Taxing Soft Drinks and Restricting Access to Vending Machines to Curb Child Obesity” (with J. Fletcher and N. Tefft), *Health Affairs*, 2010, 29(5), 1059-1066.
- “Changes in Body Mass Index Z Score Over the Course of the Academic Year among Children Attending Head Start” (with J. Lumeng and N. Kaciroti), *Academic Pediatrics*, 2010, 10(3), 179-186.
- “Survey Measures of Classroom Instruction: Comparing Student and Teacher Reports” (with L. M. Desimone and T. M. Smith), *Educational Policy*, 2010, 24(2), 267-329.
- “Higher Education and Health Investments: Does More Schooling Affect Preventive Health Care Use?” (with J. Fletcher), *Journal of Human Capital*, 2009, 3(2), 144-176.
- “Beyond Accountability and Average Mathematics Scores: Relating State Education Policy Attributes to Cognitive Achievement Domains” (with L. M. Desimone, T. M. Smith, and S. Ansell), *Educational Measurement: Issues and Practice*, 2005, 24(4), 5-18.

External Funding

- National Institute of Health, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, “State Social Policy Interventions for Maternal Health,” R01, Principal Investigator (MPI with K. Hall), 2024-2029, \$3.3 million.
- Anonymous foundation, “Income Assistance and Wellbeing,” Principal Investigator, 2023-2024, \$297,206.
- Johnson County Board of Supervisors, “Evaluation of Johnson County’s Direct Assistance Program,” Principal Investigator, 2022-2023, \$152,768.
- Iowa Department of Human Services, “Iowa Wellness Plan Evaluation,” Co-Investigator (co-PIs: P. Damiano, N. Askelson, S. McKernan, and E. Momany), 2020-2026, \$17.2 million.
- National Institute of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, “Understanding the Effect of Calorie Menu Labels on Obesity: Producer and Consumer Responses to the ACA’s Calorie Posting Requirement,” R01, Principal Investigator, 2016-2021, \$1.3 million.
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “Expanding Analysis of Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Taxes in Oakland, Calif. and Philadelphia and Disseminating Findings on Implementation and Impact,” Principal Investigator, 2018-2019, \$500,000.
- Spencer Foundation, “Equity Implemented: A Research-Practice Partnership with the Iowa City Community School District,” co-Principal Investigator (PI: S. Bruch), 2018-2019, \$399,782.

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, "Conducting a Multi-City Sugar-Sweetened Beverage (SSB) Tax Evaluation in the United States," Principal Investigator, 2016-2019, \$2.5 million.
- Iowa Department of Human Services, "Evaluation of the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan," Co-Investigator (co-PIs: N. Askelson and B. Wright), 2014-2019, \$6.5 million.
- National Bureau of Economic Research/US Department of Agriculture, "The Role of School Meal Programs in the Food Environment Experienced by Children," co-Principal Investigator (with J. Price), 2016-2017, \$77,656.
- Duke-UNC USDA Center for Behavioral Economics and Healthy Food Choice Research, "Calorie Mandates and Dietary Habits: Understanding How Information Impacts What and Where People Eat," Co-Investigator (PI: M. Price), 2016-2017, \$50,000.
- University of California, Davis, Center for Poverty Research, "Habit Formation and the Persistent Impact of WIC," Principal Investigator, 2014-2015, \$34,318.
- University of Kentucky, Center for Poverty Research, Research Program on Childhood Hunger, "Understanding the Relationship between the School Breakfast Program and Food Insecurity," Principal Investigator, 2013-2014, \$74,995.
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Healthy Eating Research, "Examining the Impact of the Federal Reimbursement Rate on the Nutritional Content of School Meals," Principal Investigator, 2011-2013, \$74,996.
- National Institute of Health, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, "School Breakfast Program Mandates and Childhood Obesity," R03, Principal Investigator, 2011-2013, \$155,000.
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Healthy Eating Research, "Evaluating the Effects of State Interventions to Combat Childhood Obesity through Decreasing Soft Drink Consumption," co-Principal Investigator (with J. Fletcher), 2008 - 2010, \$146,237.
- University of Wisconsin, Institute for Research on Poverty, IRP-USDA RIDGE Grant, "Nutrition and Cognitive Achievement: An Evaluation of the School Breakfast Program," Principal Investigator, 2008-2010, \$39,966.
- Wisconsin Longitudinal Study Pilot Grant, "Assessing the Causal Effects of Education on Preventive Health Care Choices," co-Principal Investigator (with J. Fletcher), 2007 - 2008, \$10,000.

Recent Seminar and Conference Presentations

- 2025: Allied Social Science Associations Conference
- 2024: University of Bologna, American Society of Health Economists Annual Conference, University of Wisconsin, Marquette University, Iowa State University
- 2023: Duke University/University of North Carolina, USAID Partnership for Higher Education Reform
- 2021: Policy Evaluation Network International Workshop (keynote)
- 2020: University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management International Conference

Teaching and Advising

Courses Taught

University of Iowa

Health Economics, Fall 2013, Spring 2015, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2025
Policy Analysis, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016
Health Economics (Ph.D.), Spring 2015, Spring 2016
Economics of Poverty, Spring 2016
Topics in Labor Economics (Ph.D.), Spring 2017

Emory University

Public Finance, Fall 2008, Fall 2010, Fall 2011
Economics of Poverty, Spring 2009, Spring 2010
Dissertation Workshop, Spring 2009
Health Economics (Ph.D.), Fall 2009, Spring 2011, Spring 2013
Health Policy and Economics, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2012, Spring 2013

Vanderbilt University

Economic Statistics, Summer 2003, Fall 2003, Summer 2004

Graduate Student Advising at Iowa

Dissertation Advisor: Mina Mirazimi (2022), Travis Williams (2022), Darren Page (2021), Manda Tiwari (2021), Chelsea Crain (2019), Sun Hyung Kim (2019), Lianjun Li (2019), Zhuoya Zhang (2019), Younsoo Jung (2018), Emily Leslie (2017)
Dissertation Committee Member: Justin Doty (2022), Sadia Farzana (2022), Patrick Brady (Community and Behavioral Health, 2021), Liqiong Chen (2019), Fan Liu (2017), Lev Lvovskiy (2017), Marilyn Pease (2017), Chander Kochar (2016), Cenk Cetin (2015), Dohyoung Kwon (2015)

Graduate Student Advising at Emory

Dissertation Advisor: Animesh Giri (2014), Maria Vyshnya (2014)
Dissertation Committee Member: Lorenzo Almada (Economics, Georgia State University, 2014), Jing Xu (2013), Handie Peng (2013), Carolina Felix (2012), Erik Nesson (2012), Josh Robinson (2012), Griffin Edwards (2011), Mary Schroeder (2011), Laura Lessard (Behavioral Sciences and Health Education, 2011), Deliana Kostova (2010)

Undergraduate Student Advising at Iowa

Honors Thesis: Adam Edwards (2022), Riley Lewers (2020), Emily Legel (2017), Tyler Shearer (2017), Natalie Veldhouse (2015, co-advisor)

Undergraduate Student Advising at Emory

Honors Thesis Advisor: Rebecca Morris (2013), Kathryn Lee (2012), David Adler (2011), Jennifer Feinberg (2011), Adam Waxman (2011), Ben Helfand (2009)

Professional Service

Editorial Positions

Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Co-Editor, 2020 - present
Economics and Human Biology

Associate Editor, 2018 – present

Co-Editor, Special issue on direct cash transfers, 2023-2024

Co-Editor, Special issue about taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages, 2019-2020

Food Policy, Co-Editor, Special issue about taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages, 2023

Grant and Report Reviewer

Duke-UNC USDA Center for Behavioral Economics and Healthy Food Choice Research

Emory Global Health Institute Programs of Excellence in Tobacco Control

Israel Science Foundation

National Institutes of Health

NIDDK, Time-Sensitive Obesity Policy and Program Evaluation, Special Emphasis Panel, 2013 – present

Social Sciences and Population Studies Study Section, SSPA, 2025

Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity Special Emphasis Panel, ZRG1 BP-H, 2024

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic-related Food and Housing Policies in Health Disparity Populations, ARG1 SCIL-K, 2022, 2023

Healthcare Delivery and Methodologies Special Emphasis Panel, ZRG1 HDM-C, 2019

National Science Foundation

Public Policy Institute of California

Research Grant Council of Hong Kong

Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics Center, Institute for Research on Poverty

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Healthy Eating Research

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Future of Nursing

Sam Houston State University, Enhancement Grant for Research

US Census Bureau

US Department of Agriculture

University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research

University of Iowa DeLTA Center

University of Iowa Public Policy Center Summer Scholar-in-Residence program

Advisory Positions

International Health Economics Association, Convenor for the Economics of Obesity Special Interest Group, 2022 - present

University of Iowa, Prevention Research Center for Rural Health, Internal Advisory Board, 2020 – present

United Way of Iowa ALICE Research Advisory Committee, 2023, 2024, 2025

Iowa Department of Revenue, Iowa's Venture Capital Tax Credit – Qualifying Businesses Evaluation Study Advisory Board, 2024

Iowa Department of Revenue, Iowa's School Tuition Organization Tax Credits Program Evaluation Study Advisory Board, 2022

Queen's University Belfast, Fiscal and Pricing Policies Related to Food and Non-Alcoholic Drinks Expert Advisory Group, 2021

Great Plains Federal Statistical Data Research Center Advisory Board, 2015 – 2020

USDA Food and Nutrition Service Advisory Panel on Measuring Erroneous Payments for the School Meal Programs, 2015

Mentoring

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management mentor, 2023-2024

American Society of Health Economists mentor, 2018, 2020-2021

Conference Organization

Midwest Health Economics Conference Steering Committee, 2015 – present

American Society of Health Economists Conference Scientific Review Committee, 2014, 2016, 2019, 2024

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference Program Committee, Health, 2016

Midwest Health Economics Conference, Lead Organizer, 2015

Georgia Health Economics Research Day, Co-Organizer, 2013

Robert Wood Johnson Healthy Eating Research Conference, Planning Committee, 2013

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Employment and Education Conference, Co-Organizer, 2011

Southeastern Health Economics Study Group Annual Conference, Planning Committee, 2009