

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Department of Economics

1285 University of Oregon

Eugene, OR 97403-1285

EDUCATION

University of Oregon

Ph.D., Economics

Fields: Applied Econometrics, Labor Economics

Expected June 2023

M.S., Economics

December 2019

La Salle University

B.A., *maxima cum laude*, Economics & Minors in Mathematics and German

June 2017

FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

Microeconometrics, labor, education, and crime

WORKING PAPERS

Job Market Paper: “The Effect of Violent Video Games on Violent Crime” (with Gretchen Gamrat)

We analyze the effect that violent video games have on violent crime in the United States. Using county-level variation in retail sales of “mature” video games, some of which occur on proprietary platforms, we leverage exogenous variation in exposure to identify corresponding changes in crime outcomes. Especially after high-profile violent crimes, policymakers and the news media frequently argue that increased exposure to violent games leads to increased violent crime. We find no such evidence. If anything, our analysis suggests that short-run decreases in violent crime, specifically violent sexual offenses, follow the release of mature video games.

“Social Transfers and Spatial Distortions” (with Mark Colas)

R&R at the Journal of Labor Economics; [OIG Working Paper No. 54](#)

US social transfer programs vary substantially across states, incentivizing households to locate in states with more generous transfer programs. Further, transfer formulas often decrease in income, therefore rewarding low-income households for living in low-paying cities. We quantify these distortions by combining a spatial equilibrium model with a detailed model of transfer programs in the US. The current system leads to locational inefficiency of 4.38% of total transfer spending. A reform that both harmonizes transfer policies across states and indexes household income to local average earnings reduces this inefficiency by over 85 percent while still preserving the programs’ means-tested nature.

“Mean Convergence, Combinatorics, and Grade-Point Averages” (with Glen Waddell)

[IZA Discussion Paper No. 15414](#)

Grade-point averaging is fundamentally a combinatorics problem, which challenges inference that relies on the comparison of students with similar GPAs. In the context of a regression discontinuity, we show that it is at smaller bandwidths and with fewer classes contributing to GPA that researchers are most exposed to this sensitivity. While larger bandwidths therefore shield the estimator from this challenge, we show that this accommodation relies on having sufficient overlap of student types at a given GPA. In the end, the ability to overcome the challenges associated with combinatorics therefore depends on how much noise there is in the distribution of GPAs.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor

EC 450: Labor Economics	Summer 2020
EC 350: Labor Market Issues	Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2022
EC 201: Introductory Economic Analysis: Microeconomics	Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant

EC 607: Core Microeconomics (First Year PhD sequence)	Fall 2019, Winter 2020, Spring 2021
EC 202: Introductory Economic Analysis: Macroeconomics	Winter 2021
EC 421: Econometrics	Spring 2021

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Fulbright Austria & the Austrian Ministry of Education <i>English Language Teaching Assistant</i>	September 2017-May 2018
Moody's Analytics <i>Research Department Intern</i>	Summer 2016, Summer 2017
Moody's Analytics <i>Data Services Department Intern</i>	Summer 2015
Professor H. David Robison, Department of Economics, La Salle University <i>Research Assistant</i>	2015-2017

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Student Volunteer

Graduate Employee Department Steward	Academic Year 2021-2022
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HONORS, AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate Teaching Award, Department of Economics, University of Oregon	2022
Kleinsorge Summer Research Award, Department of Economics, University of Oregon	Summer 2021
Dale Underwood Outstanding Graduate Student Scholarship, Department of Economics, University of Oregon	Summer 2019
Fulbright Combined Research & Teaching Grant, Fulbright Austria <i>An Analysis of Translator and Author: Lessons from Wydenbruck and Lavant</i>	2017-2018
First-Year Graduate Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Oregon	Fall 2018
Department Academic Award, Department of Economics, La Salle University	Spring 2017

SKILLS

Statistical Computing: R (preferred), Stata	Cloud Computing: Google Compute Engine
Statistical Communication: LaTeX, Markdown, Github	GIS Analysis and Presentation: ArcGIS
Data Management: SQL (limited)	

LANGUAGES

English (native); German (limited working)

CITIZENSHIP

USA

REFERENCES

Glen Waddell

Professor of Economics
waddell@uoregon.edu

Mark Colas

Assistant Professor of Economics
mcolas@uoregon.edu

Ed Rubin

Assistant Professor of Economics
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Chris Sinclair

Associate Professor of Mathematics
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