

Johnathan G. Conzelmann

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EMPLOYMENT

2024 – Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Denison University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Public Policy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2024

M.Ed. Higher Education Administration, North Carolina State University, 2014

B.A. Economics, Butler University, 2012

RESEARCH AREAS

Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Public Economics, Higher Education Policy

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

[“Grads on the Go: Measuring College-Specific Labor Markets for Graduates,”](#) with Steven Hemelt, Brad Hershbein, Shawn Martin, Andrew Simon, & Kevin Stange. (2025). *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

Media coverage: [Washington Post](#), [538 \(Data is Plural\)](#), [KPBS San Diego](#), [Dakota Free Press](#), [Detroit News](#)

[“Modular survey design: Experimental manipulation of survey length and monetary incentive structure,”](#) with Andy Peytchev, Emilia Peytcheva, Ashley Wilson, & Jennifer Wine. (2020). *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology* 8(2): 370-384.

[“Another day another dollar metric? An event history analysis of student loan repayment,”](#) with T. Austin Lacy & Nichole D. Smith. (2019). *Education Finance and Policy* 14(4): 627-651.

[“Federal Income-Driven Repayment plans and short-term student loan outcomes,”](#) with T. Austin Lacy & Nichole D. Smith. (2018). *Educational Researcher* 47(4): 255-258.

[“Strategic use of FAFSA list information by colleges,”](#) with Stephen R. Porter. (2017). *Research in Higher Education* 58(5): 568-579.

[“Bounded aspirations: Rural, African American high school students and college access,”](#) with Darris R. Means, Ashley B. Clayton, Patti Baynes, & Paul D. Umbach. (2016). *The Review of Higher Education* 39(4): 543-569.

WORKING PAPERS

[“Skills, Majors and Jobs: Does Higher Education Respond?”](#) with Steven Hemelt, Brad Hershbein, Shawn Martin, Andrew Simon, & Kevin Stange. *NBER Working Paper No. 31572*. Revisions requested at *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*

[“The Diversification of Baccalaureate Education.”](#)

[“IDR as Insurance: Employment Effects of Income-Driven Repayment Expansion.”](#)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

[“Workforce-aligned financial aid in Ohio and Kentucky.”](#) (with Riley Acton & Raj Darolia)

[“State Appropriations for Higher Education and Migration.”](#) (with Andrew Simon, Shwetha Raghuraman, and Bess von der Heydt).

Grade Inflation Mechanisms in U.S. Higher Education.

BOOK CHAPTERS

[“College Majors and Programs: Choices and Returns,”](#) with Stephanie Owen and Andrew Simon. In *Live Handbook of Education Policy Research*. Douglas Harris (ed.), Association for Education Finance and Policy.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[“What the Migration of College Graduates Means for Earnings-Based Accountability”](#) with Steven Hemelt, Brad Hershbein, Andrew Simon, & Kevin Stange. (2025). *Postsecondary Education & Economics Research Brief*.

[“How higher education responds to labor market demand.”](#) with Steven Hemelt, Brad Hershbein, Shawn Martin, Andrew Simon, & Kevin Stange. (2024). *W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research Policy and Research Brief*.

[“New data show how far graduates move from their college, and why it matters.”](#) with Steven Hemelt, Brad Hershbein, Shawn Martin, Andrew Simon, & Kevin Stange. (2023). *W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research Policy and Research Brief*.

[“Understanding the Labor Markets for Graduates of UNC System Institutions,”](#) with Steven Hemelt. (2022). *North Carolina Education Futures Initiative Research Brief*.

[“Grads on the Go: Measuring College-Specific Labor Markets for Graduates,”](#) with Steven Hemelt, Brad Hershbein, Shawn Martin, Andrew Simon, & Kevin Stange. (2022). *Public Dataset*.

[“The Long journey through student loan repayment: A look at diverse pathways,”](#) with Erin Velez, Austin Lacy, Michael Duprey, & Nichole Smith. (2019). *Pew Charitable Trusts White Paper*.

[“The state of financial knowledge in college: New evidence from a national survey,”](#) with Drew Anderson & Austin Lacy. (2018). *RAND working paper*.

[“Financial and student loan \(il\)literacy among US college students,”](#) with T. Austin Lacy. (2018). *Brookings Institution: Brown Center Chalkboard*.

[“2015-16 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study \(NPSAS:16\): Student Financial Aid Estimates for 2015-16,”](#) with David Radwin, Austin Lacy, Joanna Wu, Stephen Lew, Jennifer Wine, & Peter Siegel. (2018). *U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics*.

“The tension between student loan accountability and income-driven repayment plans,” with Nichole Smith & T. Austin Lacy. (2016). *Brookings Institution: Brown Center Chalkboard*.

CONFERENCE AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING PLANNED*)

- 2025 Ohio State University, Miami University, Workshop on Education Economics and Policy (WEEP) - University of Oslo, Midwest Economics of Education at Notre Dame
- 2024 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), Abt Associates, Denison University
- 2023 AEFP, UNC-Chapel Hill Policy Research Group
- 2022 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- 2021 AEFP, UNC Public Policy Graduate Student Brownbag

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2026–2028 “Postsecondary Education Financing and Geographic Mobility,” Arnold Ventures (co-PI with Riley Acton & Raj Darolia), \$398,000
- 2026–2027 “The Impact of Workforce-Aligned Grant Aid in Ohio,” Ohio Department of Higher Education Public Policy Research Consortium (co-PI with Riley Acton), \$49,800
- 2017–2018 “Pathways through Repayment: A Typology of Student Loan Repayment Patterns,” Pew Charitable Trusts (with Erin D. Velez, PI), \$50,000
- 2017–2018 “The student loan repayment project,” RTI International Professional Development Award (with T. Austin Lacy, PI), \$28,000

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2026 Postsecondary Education & Economics Research (PEER) Center Summer Scholar
- 2026 Jean Flanigan Outstanding Dissertation Award Honorable Mention, Association for Education Finance and Policy
- 2022–2024 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2023 Emerging Scholar, Student Borrower Protection Center
- 2018 President’s Award, RTI International (*Team award*)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2020–2021 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Public Policy with Dr. Steven Hemelt
- 2014–2019 RTI International
Research Education Analyst, Education & Workforce Development Division

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Denison University

- ECON467 Advanced Econometrics, F26
- ECON464 Labor Economics, F24, S26
- ECON307 Introductory Econometrics, S25(x2), F25

ECON102 Introductory Microeconomics, F24, S25, F25, S26(x2), F26(x2)

UNC-Chapel Hill

PLCY700 Mathematical Preparation for Public Policy and Economics, F22, F23

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee: *AERA Open, American Journal of Education, Economics of Education Review, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Education Finance and Policy (x3), Empirical Economics, Journal for Labour Market Research, Journal of Family and Economic Issues (x4), Journal of Human Resources, Research in Higher Education, Review of Educational Research*

Conference: *AEFP (x2), APPAM*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Analysis: Stata (highly advanced), R (advanced), SAS (intermediate)

Other: \LaTeX , Zotero, SQL, Qualtrix