

LESLEY J. TURNER

Harris School of Public Policy
University of Chicago
1307 East 60th Street,
Chicago, IL 60637

Phone: 773.834.4697
Email: ljturner@uchicago.edu
Homepage: <https://lesleyjturner.com>

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Chicago

Associate Professor of Public Policy (2023 -).

Vanderbilt University

Associate Professor of Economics (2019 -).

Associate Professor of Leadership, Policy, & Organizations (secondary) (2021 -).

University of Maryland

Assistant Professor of Economics (2012 - 2019; received tenure in 2019).

University of Michigan

Visiting Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Economics (2016 - 2017).

OTHER APPOINTMENTS & AFFILIATIONS

U.S. Department of Education

Expert, Office of the Under Secretary and Office of the Chief Economist (2023 -).

Senior Advisor, Office of the Under Secretary and Office of the Chief Economist (2022).

National Bureau of Economic Research

Research Associate (2020 -).

Faculty Research Fellow (2014 - 2020).

Journal of Human Resources, *Co-editor (2022 -).*

Education Finance and Policy, *Editorial Board (2019 -).*

Postsecondary Equity & Economics Research Project, *Steering Committee Member (2021).*

Russell Sage Foundation, *Advisory Committee Member, Social Inequality Program (2021).*

Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank

Nonresident Visiting Scholar, Consumer Finance Institute (2020 -).

Student Loan Law Initiative, University of California Irvine, *Research Affiliate (2020 -).*

U.S. Senate, Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions Committee, *Education Fellow (2018 - 2019).*

Center for Economic Studies/ifo Institute Network, *Research Affiliate (2015 -).*

Maryland Population Research Center, *Faculty Associate (2012 - 2019).*

EDUCATION

Columbia University

Ph.D. in Economics, with distinction (2012).

M.A. in Economics (2009).

University of Michigan

M.P.P., Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy (2005).

B.A. in Sociology, *Summa Cum Laude* (2004).

ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS

“Taking it to the Limit: Effects of Increased Student Loan Availability on Liquidity Constrained Students,” with Sandy Black, Jeff Denning, Lisa Dettling, and Sarena Goodman (forthcoming). *American Economic Review*.

“Race and Nativity Earnings Gaps: The Role of College Networks,” with Dylan Conger and Colin Chellman (2023). *Economics of Education Review* 93: 102356.

“Effects of the Menu of Loan Contracts on Borrower Behavior,” with Katharine Abraham, Emel Filiz Ozbay, and Erkut Ozbay (2022). *Management Science* 68(1): 509-529.

“Paralysis by Analysis? Effects of Information on Student Loan Take-up,” with Benjamin M. Marx (2020). *Economics of Education Review* 77: 102010.

“Where Do Students Go When For-Profit Colleges Lose Federal Aid?,” with Rajeev Darolia and Stephanie R. Cellini (2020). *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 12(2): 46-83.

“Framing Effects, Earnings Expectations, and the Design of Student Loan Repayment Schemes,” with Katharine Abraham, Emel Filiz Ozbay, and Erkut Ozbay (2020). *Journal of Public Economics* 183: 104067.

“ProPelled: The Effects of the Pell Grant on Graduation and Earnings,” with Jeffrey T. Denning and Benjamin M. Marx (2019). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 11(3): 193-224.

“Student Loan Nudges: Experimental Evidence on Borrowing and Educational Attainment,” with Benjamin M. Marx (2019). *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 11(2): 108-141.

“Borrowing Trouble? Human Capital Investment with Opt-In Costs and Implications for the Effectiveness of Grant Aid,” with Benjamin M. Marx. (2018). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 10(2): 163-201.

“The Impact of Tuition Increases on Undocumented College Students’ Attainment,” with Dylan Conger,” (2017). *Journal of Public Economics* 148: 92-184.

“The Returns to Higher Education for Marginal Students: Evidence from Colorado Welfare Recipients,” (2016). *Economics of Education Review*, 51: 169-184.

“The Effect of Medicaid Policies on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Children’s Mental Health Problems in Primary Care,” (2015). *Health Economics*, 24(2): 142-157.

“Teacher Incentive Pay and Educational Outcomes: Evidence from the New York City Bonus Program,” with Sarena Goodman (2013). *Journal of Labor Economics*, 31(2): 409-420.

“Short Run Impacts of Accountability on School Quality,” with Jonah Rockoff (2010). *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2(4): 119-147.

“The Relationship between Income and Material Hardship,” with James X. Sullivan and Sheldon Danziger (2008). *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 27(1): 72-105.

“Failing the Transition from Welfare to Work: Women Chronically Disconnected from Work and Cash Welfare,” with Sheldon Danziger and Kristin Seefeldt (2006). *Social Science Quarterly*, 87(2): 227-249.

WORKING PAPERS

“PLUS or Minus? The Effect of Graduate School Loans on Access, Attainment, and Prices,” with Sandra Black and Jeffrey Denning (2023). *Under review*.

“Connecting College Dropouts to Support and Reentry Services,” with Oded Gurantz (2023). *R&R, Education Finance and Policy*.

“Welfare Effects of Changes in College Pricing,” with Jeff Denning and Ben Marx (2018).

“The Economic Incidence of Federal Student Grant Aid,” (2017).

“The Impact of School and Classroom Gender Composition on Educational Achievement,” with Soohyung Lee, Seokjin Woo, and Kyunghee Kim. (2015). NBER working paper 20722.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Graduate School Graduation Rates,” with Jeffrey T. Denning.

“Do Mega Universities Expand Access to Education?,” with Sophie McGuinness.

“The Effect of Student Loan Payment Burdens on Borrower Outcomes,” with Tomàs Monarrez.

“The Effects of Income-Driven Repayment on Borrowers’ Financial Health, Employment, and Graduate School Enrolment,” with Rajeev Darolia.

“Student Debt and Housing Wealth,” with Jeremy Burke, Juan Saavedra, and Tucker Smith.

“How Should Colleges Present Loan Information,” with Benjamin M. Marx.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“The Effect of Higher Loan Limits on Access to High-Return Graduate Programs,” with Jeffrey T. Denning (2023). *AEA Papers and Proceedings* 113: 530-534.

“The Importance of "Choice Architecture" for Student Loan Repayment Decisions & Outcomes” (2021). Postsecondary Equity & Economics Research Project Policy Brief.

“Student Outcomes at Community Colleges: What Factors Explain Variation in Loan Repayment and Earnings?” with Cody Christensen (2021). Brookings Institution.

“Higher Education Performance and Accountability: Insights from a New Visualization Tool,” with Leonardo Restrepo (2021). Brookings Institution.

“Towards a Framework for Accountability for Federal Financial Assistance Programs in Postsecondary Education,” with Jordan Matsudaira (2020). Brookings Institution.

“Attainment Effects of Student Loans and Pell Grants,” with Benjamin M. Marx (2019). *AEA Papers and Proceedings* 109: 223-226.

“The Benefits of Borrowing,” with Benjamin M. Marx (2019). *Education Next* 19(1).
Invited but refereed.

“Rethinking Institutional Aid: Implications for Affordability, Access, and the Effectiveness of Federal Student Aid,” (2014). In *Reinventing Student Aid for the 21st Century*, edited by A. Kelly and S. Goldrick-Rab. Harvard Education Press: Cambridge, MA.

“Giving Secondary Earners a Break: A Proposal to Help Low and Middle Income Families,” with Melissa S. Kearney (2013). Hamilton Project Discussion Paper.

“New York City Teacher Incentive Program: Agreeing on a Plan,” with Ann Bartel and Jonah Rockoff (2012). Columbia Business School Case 120304.

“Does Whole-School Performance Pay Improve Student Learning? Evidence from New York City Schools,” with Sarena F. Goodman (2011). *Education Next* 11(2): 67-71.
Invited but refereed.

CONFERENCES AND INVITED SEMINARS

2024 (including scheduled): AEA Annual Meeting (San Antonio).

2023 (including scheduled): AEA Annual Meeting (New Orleans); NBER Education Spring Meeting; Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; CESifo Economics of Education Conference (Munich, Germany); University of Notre Dame; Iowa State University; University of Chicago, Committee on Education Workshop; Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; University of Arizona; APPAM Annual Meeting (Atlanta); Monash University Applied Micro Workshop; E61 Institute.

- 2022: AEA Annual Meeting; University of Tennessee – Knoxville; University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy; Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Econometric Society (Fortaleza Brazil).
- 2021: University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School and Graduate School of Education; Northern Illinois University; University of Virginia; AEFPP Annual Meeting; University of Southern California, Center for Economic and Social Research; U.S. Military Academy West Point; University of Pittsburgh; Miami University.
- 2020: CESifo Economics of Education Conference; Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting; NBER Labor Studies Fall Meeting; APPAM Annual Meeting; Upjohn Institute; Brookings Institution; SOLE/EALE/AASLE World Conference; Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota, Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute, Conference on Financing Higher Education in the U.S.; AEFPP Annual Meeting; Duke University.
- 2019: University of Florida, Education Policy Research Center; Texas A&M University; Brookings Institution; CESifo Economics of Education Conference (Munich, Germany); University of Wisconsin IRP Summer Research Workshop; Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research Policy Forum; AEFPP Annual Meeting (Kansas City); AEA Annual Meeting (Atlanta).
- 2018: Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia; Vanderbilt University; Cornell University; BEA; Stanford University, Graduate School of Education; George Washington University; IZA Workshop on the Economics of Education (Bonn, Germany); Carnegie Mellon University Education Summit; CUNY, Office of Policy Research; SOLE Annual Meeting (Toronto); Georgia State University; AEFPP Annual Meeting (Portland, OR); AEA Annual Meeting (Philadelphia).
- 2017: Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Higher Education Financing Conference; Kansas State University; IPA Researcher Gathering on Advancing Financial Inclusion at Northwestern University; Columbia University, Teacher’s College; Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Disparities in the Labor Market Conference; NBER Summer Institute; Early-Career Behavioral Economics Conference at Carnegie Mellon University; Michigan State University; Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment Conference (Washington, DC); University of Michigan, Causal Inference in Education Research Seminar; AEFPP Annual Meeting (Washington, DC).
- 2016: APPAM Annual Meeting (Washington, DC); AEI Higher Education Working Group; Ohio State University; University of North Carolina – Charlotte; University of Michigan, Causal Inference in Education Research Seminar; CESifo Economics of Education Conference (Munich, Germany); National University of Singapore; Sogang University; IPA Researcher Gathering on Advancing Financial Inclusion at Yale University.
- 2015: APPAM Annual Meeting (Miami, FL); University of Maryland, School of Public Policy; CESifo Economics of Education Conference (Munich, Germany); Society of Government Economists; SOLE/EALE Annual Meeting (Montreal); Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Policy Summit (Pittsburgh); AIR Annual Meeting (Denver); Population Association of America Annual Meeting (San Diego); Federal Reserve Board of

Governors; City University of New York, Office of Policy Research, Higher Education Seminar Series; AEFPP Annual Meeting (Washington, DC).

- 2014: Brookings Institution; APPAM Annual Meeting (Albuquerque); Federal Reserve Bank of New York; NBER Education Spring Meeting; Stanford University; Michigan State University; Harvard University; AEA Annual Meeting (Philadelphia).
- 2013: University of Virginia, Batten School of Public Policy; Congressional Budget Office; University of Wisconsin IRP Summer Research Workshop; AEI Higher Education Working Group; University of Michigan, Department of Economics and Ford School of Public Policy; George Washington University; AEFPP Annual Meeting (New Orleans); University of Maryland Baltimore County; ASSA Annual Meetings (San Diego).
- 2012: The College Board, Advocacy and Policy Center; APPAM Annual Meeting (Baltimore); University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy; Georgetown University, Public Policy; NBER Education Spring Meeting; AEFPP Annual Meeting (Boston); President's Council of Economic Advisors; Brown University; University of Wisconsin-Madison; University of Pennsylvania Wharton School; University of Toronto; University of Maryland-College Park; Federal Reserve Board of Governors; University of Pittsburgh; Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Purdue University; University of Notre Dame; the Upjohn Institute; MDRC.
- 2011: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis; Columbia University Teacher's College; Welfare Research and Evaluation Conference (Washington, DC); AEFPP Annual Meeting (Seattle).
- 2010: Columbia University Teacher's College; APPAM Annual Meeting (Washington, DC); Harvard Kennedy School, Program on Education Policy and Governance.

SPONSORED RESEARCH

Arnold Ventures, "The Effect of Graduate PLUS Student Loan Increases on Access, Program Prices, Student Debt, and Labor Market Outcomes," \$264,396, January 2021 – December 2022, Co-Investigator, with Sandra Black and Jeffrey Denning.

Student Loan Law Initiative, "Student Debt and Housing Wealth," \$15,000, September 2020 – September 2021, Principal Investigator, with Jeremy Burke and Juan Saavedra.

Student Loan Law Initiative, "The Effects of Income-Driven Repayment on Borrowers' Financial Health, Employment, and Graduate School Enrollment," \$15,000, September 2020 – September 2021, Principal Investigator, with Rajeev Darolia.

Arnold Ventures, "The Impact of Student Loans on Enrollment, Attainment, Credit, and Earnings," \$245,489, June 2019 – June 2022, Co-Investigator, with Benjamin Marx.

Arnold Ventures, "Connecting College Dropouts to Support and Reentry Services," \$360,520, August 2019 – July 2021, Co-Investigator, with Oded Gurantz.

Russell Sage Foundation Behavioral Economics Program, "Behavioral Biases and the Design of Student Loan Repayment Schemes," \$99,959, September 2015 – August 2016, Principal Investigator, with Katharine Abraham, Emel Filiz Ozbay, and Erkut Ozbay.

University of Maryland Research and Scholarship Award, "Selection into Loan Repayment Plans: Implications for the Design of New Student Loan Repayment Schemes," \$9,000, Summer 2015, Principal Investigator.

Lumina Foundation and ideas42, "Nudging Students towards Better Borrowing Decisions," \$109,000, September 2014 - December 2015, Co-Investigator, with Benjamin M. Marx.

American Institutes for Research, "Competition and Crowd-out: Evidence from Local Higher Education Markets," \$39,943, September 2014 - August 2015, Principal Investigator, with Rajeev Darolia and Stephanie Cellini.

American Education Research Association, "Do Colleges and Students Respond to Federal Government Ratings? Impacts on Institution and Student Behavior," \$19,999, May 2014 - April 2014, Principal Investigator.

University of Maryland Dean's Research Initiative, "Smarts versus Skills: The Effect of College Entrance Exams on Labor Market Outcomes and Inequality," \$41,400, June 2013 - May 2014, Principal Investigator, with Sergio Urzua.

American Education Research Association Dissertation Grant, "Do Colleges Practice Price Discrimination? Implications for Access and Affordability," \$20,000, September 2010 - August 2011, Principal Investigator.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Excellence in Refereeing Award, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, 2019.

Congressional Evidence Fellowship, Bipartisan Policy Center & Arnold Foundation, 2018-19.

CESifo Distinguished Young Affiliate Prize, 2015.

Graduate Teaching Award, University of Maryland Department of Economics, 2014.

W. E. Upjohn Institute Dissertation Award, 2012.

Wueller Pre-Dissertation Award (runner-up), Columbia Department of Economics, 2010.

Harriss Prize: Best 2nd year paper (runner-up), Columbia Department of Economics, 2009.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Courses taught at Vanderbilt University

Graduate Applied Research Methods (Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2023).

Graduate Public Economics (Spring 2020).

Undergraduate Economics of Education (Fall 2020).

Courses taught at the University of Maryland

Graduate Public Economics (Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2017, Fall 2018).

Undergraduate Economics of Education Policy (Spring 2018).

Undergraduate Public Finance (Fall 2013, Spring 2015, Spring 2016).

Courses taught at the University of Michigan

Undergraduate Public Finance (Spring 2017).

Course development

University of Chicago, Public Policy Studies 28030 – Higher Education Policy (undergraduate)
University of Chicago, PPHA 35720 – Higher Education Policy (MPP)
Vanderbilt University, Economics 3210 – Economics of Education
Vanderbilt University, Economics 9540 – Topics in Economics, Applied Research Methods
University of Maryland, Economics 652 – Graduate Public Economics
University of Maryland, Economics 468E – Undergraduate Economics of Education Policy

Guest lectures

Vanderbilt University, Economics 4981: Undergraduate Honors Seminar (Fall 2019, 2020, 2021).
University of Michigan, Public Policy 495: U.S. Social Policy (Spring 2017).
University of Maryland, Econ 772: Graduate Population Economics (Spring 2016).
University of Maryland, Econ 645: Empirical Analysis III (Spring 2015).
University of Maryland, Econ 401H: Current Issues in American Economic Policy (Fall 2014).

Graduate advising

Sophie McGuinness, Vanderbilt University Peabody LPO, expected 2025 (committee member).
Kaitlyn Elgart, Vanderbilt University Economics, expected 2024 (chair).
Tucker Smith, Vanderbilt University Economics, expected 2024 (chair).
Luis Carvajal Osorio, Vanderbilt University Economics, expected 2024 (co-chair).
Rowan Isaacs, Vanderbilt University Economics, expected 2024 (chair).
Kayleigh McCrary, Vanderbilt University Economics, expected 2023 (committee member).
Jordan Bazak, University of Pittsburgh Economics, expected 2023 (committee member).
Patrick Flynn, Vanderbilt University Economics, 2022 (co-chair).
Cameron Friday, Vanderbilt University Economics, 2022 (chair).
Matthew Pesner, Vanderbilt University Economics, 2022 (committee member).
Craig Sylvera, Vanderbilt University Economics, 2022 (committee member).
Brandyn Churchill, Vanderbilt University Economics, 2021 (committee member).
Daniel Mangrum, Vanderbilt University Economics, 2020 (committee member).
Heath Witzen, University of Maryland Economics, 2019 (chair).
Lucas Goodman, University of Maryland Economics, 2018 (committee member).
John Burczek Dreier, University of Maryland College of Education, 2018 (committee member).
Ken Ueda, University of Maryland Economics, 2016 (committee member).
Stephanie Rennane, University of Maryland Economics, 2016 (committee member).
Filippos Petroulakis, University of Maryland Economics, 2015 (committee member).
Charles Baschnagel, University of Maryland Economics, 2015 (committee member).
Jeffrey Borowitz, University of Maryland Economics, 2013 (committee member).
Erin Moody, University of Maryland Economics, 2013 (committee member).

Undergraduate honors thesis advising

Katelynn Lewallen, Vanderbilt University, 2023.
Annie Wang, Vanderbilt University, 2022 (second reader).
Surya Gangavarapu, Vanderbilt University, 2021 (second reader).
Jela Shriver, University of Maryland, 2018-19 (co-advisor).
Calvin Kuo, University of Maryland, 2014-15.
Eric Aldenhoff, University of Maryland, 2013-14.

SERVICE

Editorial Service

Journal of Human Resources, Co-editor, (2022 -).
Education Finance and Policy, Editorial Board (2019 -).

Foundations

Russell Sage Foundation, Advisory Committee on Social Inequality (2021 -).
Ad hoc grant review for Russell Sage Foundation and Smith Richardson Foundation.

Reviewing activities for journals

AERA Open; American Educational Research Journal; American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review; American Economic Review: Insights; Contemporary Economic Policy; Econometrica; Economic Journal; Economic Inquiry; Econometrica; Economica; Economics of Education Review; Education Finance and Policy; Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis; Housing Policy Debate; Journal of Econometrics; Journal of Finance; Journal of Health Economics; Journal of Higher Education; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Labor Economics; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of the European Economic Association; Labour Economics; National Tax Journal; Public Budgeting and Finance; Quarterly Journal of Economics; Review of Economics and Statistics.

Conference discussant

AEA annual meeting (2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2022); AEI College Match Research Conference (2015); AEI International Higher Education Workshop (2017); APPAM annual meeting (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019); AEFPP annual meeting (2013, 2015, 2017, 2018); Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment Conference (2014); CESifo Economics of Education Conference (2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2023); Conference on Human Capital and Financial Frictions (2017); National Tax Association (2015); NBER Summer Institute Entrepreneurship Meeting (2018); Southern Economic Association annual meeting (2020); University of Pennsylvania Conference on Understanding Student Debt (2016); Upjohn Institute Conference on Student Loans (2013).

Department service

University of Chicago
Junior recruiting committee member, 2023-2024.

Vanderbilt University

- Graduate admissions committee, 2023.
- Senior/department chair recruiting committee member, 2023.
- Committee on Graduate Studies 2021-2022.
- Senior recruiting committee chair, 2021-2022.
- Junior recruiting committee member, 2020-2021.
- Awards committee member, 2019-2021.

University of Maryland

- Junior recruiting committee member, 2012-2013.
- Senior recruiting committee member, 2013-2016 and 2017-2018.
- Graduate admissions committee member, 2014-2015.
- Graduate studies committee member, 2013-2015 and 2017-2018.
- Department IRB liaison, 2013-2016.

University service

Vanderbilt University

- Faculty development committee member, 2020-2021.

Service to federal agencies

U.S. Department of Education

- Technical Working Group member for FSA Loan Counseling, 2021.
- Technical Working Group member for Evaluating Federal Aid Programs, 2020.
- Technical Working Group member for the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) demonstration, 2015-2019.
- National Center for Education Statistics Technical Review Panel member for the 2008/18 Baccalaureate and Beyond (B&B) Longitudinal Study, 2016).

Ad hoc grant review for the National Science Foundation.

Other service

- NTA conference program committee member, 2016 and 2021.
- E-con of Education Graduate Student Conference organizer, 2020.
- Association for Education Finance and Policy Board member, 2018-2021.