

James O'Brien

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

UPDATED: June 2021

Department of Economics
Gettysburg College
300 N. Washington St.
Gettysburg, PA 17325
(717) 337-6657
jobrien@gettysburg.edu
<https://jobrien.sites.gettysburg.edu/>

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Gettysburg College – Gettysburg, PA Aug. 2014-Present
Assistant Professor of Economics

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

White House Council of Economic Advisers – Washington, DC Aug. 2010-Aug. 2011
Staff Economist, Energy and Environment

NERA Economic Consulting – Los Angeles, CA July 2004-July 2006
Associate Analyst

EDUCATION

Georgetown University – Washington, DC Aug. 2006-May 2014
Ph.D. in Economics (May 2014)
M.A. in Economics (May 2008)

Pomona College – Claremont, CA Aug. 2000-May 2004
B.A. in Economics

University of Cape Town – Cape Town, South Africa Jan. 2003-June 2003
Study Abroad

PUBLICATIONS

“The Effects of Fuelwood on Children’s Schooling in Rural Vietnam,” (with Phoebe Do and Micaela Edelson), *Journal of Asian Economics*, February 2021.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asieco.2020.101266>

“Public Works and Children’s School Attendance: Evidence from Rural India,” Review of Development and Change, December 2020.
<https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0972266120980563>

“Environmental Engel Curves: Indirect Emissions of Common Air Pollutants” (with Arik Levinson), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, March 2019.

https://doi.org/10.1162/rest_a_00736

“Age, Autos, and the Value of a Statistical Life,” *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*, August 2018.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11166-018-9285-3>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Gettysburg College – Gettysburg, PA: Assistant Professor

- Economic and Business Statistics (Econ 241)
- Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (Econ 245)
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods (Econ 350)
- Environmental Economics (Econ 341)

Georgetown University – Washington, DC: Instructor

- Principles of Microeconomics
- Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
- American Economics and Business, Micro Principles

Georgetown University – Washington, DC: Teaching Assistant

- Senior Capstone/Thesis (Co-Head TA)
- Environmental Economics (Head TA)
- Introduction to Econometrics (Head TA)
- Principles of Microeconomics (Head TA)
- Principles of Macroeconomics

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORSHIP

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • Kolbe Summer Research Fellowship, Nicholas Silvis ('23) | Summer 2021 |
| • Honors Thesis, Abigail Hauer | 2021 |
| • Research Assistant, Megan Keene ('21) | Fall 2020 |
| • Honors Thesis, Kevin Benavente (Best Thesis Award and the Eisenhower Prize for Best Quantitative Thesis) | 2020 |
| • Honors Thesis, Angelica Marra (Eisenhower Price for Best Quantitative Thesis) | 2018 |
| • Honors Thesis, Phoebe Do (Eisenhower Prize for Best Quantitative Thesis) | 2017 |
| • William Railing Summer Fellowship Program, Angelica Marra ('18) | Summer 2016 |
| • Research Assistant, Eric Brown ('17) | Spring 2016 |
| • Mellon Summer Research Fellowship, Phoebe Do ('17) | Summer 2015 |
| • Mellon Summer Research Fellowship, Thomas Segerstrom ('17) | Summer 2015 |

RESEACH INTERESTS

- Primary fields: Public Economics, Environment Economics
- Secondary fields: Development Economics, Applied Econometrics
- **Research in progress:**
 - Marijuana legalization and racial bias in policing, with Angelica Marra.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Gettysburg College Award for Outstanding Faculty Mentor of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (2017)
- Ofair Razin Prize for best dissertation for “Age, Autos, and the Value of a Statistical Life,” Georgetown University Department of Economics (2014)
- National Science Foundation Research Grant for “Environmental Engel Curves,” with Arik Levinson (2012-2014)
- Georgetown University Faculty Competitive Grant-in-Aid for “Parent Participation in Public Works,” with Garance Genicot (2009)
- Economics Department Award for Best Teaching Assistant, Inaugural Year (2010)
- Georgetown University Merit-Based Graduate Scholarship (2007-2013)
- Oliver Holmes Mitchell Memorial Endowment Grant Recipient (2004)
- Sigma Xi National Research Science Honor Society (2002-Present)
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars (2002-Present)

SEMINAR AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Western Economic Association Annual Meetings *Jul. 2019*
- US International Trade Commission Economics Seminar *Nov. 2016*
- Gettysburg College Friday Faculty Lunch *Oct. 2015*
- Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Annual Meetings *Jun. 2015*
- Eastern Economic Association Annual Meetings *Feb. 2015*
- Georgetown Economics Department Microeconomics Workshop *Sept. 2013*
- Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics, Segment 6 (Environment) *Aug. 2013*
- Camp Resources XX *Aug. 2013*
- Midwest Economic Association Annual Meetings *March 2013*
- Research Sketch, NBER Summer Institute in Environment & Energy Economics *July 2012*
- Economics Graduate Student Organization Seminar, Georgetown University *April 2009*

OTHER LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Founder and Faculty Advisor to the Gettysburg Undergraduate Initiative for Diversity in Economics *Aug. 2020-Present*
- Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees for College Life *Aug. 2016-May 2018*
- Chair, Gettysburg College Student Life Committee *Aug. 2015-May 2018*
- Council of Economic Advisers Intern Manager *Aug. 2010-Aug. 2011*
- Georgetown Economics TA Training Instructor *Fall 2008, Fall 2009*

TECHNICAL AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

- **Computer Skills:** Gauss, Matlab, Stata, LaTeX, Scientific Workplace
- Auxiliary computer skills: Microsoft Excel (advanced), Access, and PowerPoint
- **Languages:** English (native), Spanish (intermediate)