

# James O'Brien

## OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

UPDATED: September 2022

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

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

---

**Gettysburg College** – Gettysburg, PA  
Associate Professor of Economics, 2022-Present  
Assistant Professor of Economics, 2014-2022

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

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

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

## EDUCATION

---

**Georgetown University** – Washington, DC  
Ph.D. in Economics, 2014  
M.A. in Economics, 2008

**Pomona College** – Claremont, CA  
B.A. in Economics, 2004

**University of Cape Town** – Cape Town, South Africa  
Study Abroad, 2003

## RESEARCH 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 ('18).

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

---

“The Effects of Fuelwood on Children’s Schooling in Rural Vietnam” (with Phoebe Do and Micaela Edelson), *Journal of Asian Economics*, 72 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*, 25(2) December 2020.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0972266120980563>

“Environmental Engel Curves: Indirect Emissions of Common Air Pollutants” (with Arik Levinson), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 101(1) March 2019.  
[https://doi.org/10.1162/rest\\_a\\_00736](https://doi.org/10.1162/rest_a_00736)

“Age, Autos, and the Value of a Statistical Life,” *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*, 57(1) August 2018. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11166-018-9285-3>

---

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

“Environmental Engel Curves” (with Arik Levinson). *VoxEU.org & CEPR*. March 2015.  
<https://voxeu.org/article/environmental-engel-curves>

---

## **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

---

## **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND MENTORING**

- Individualized Major: Socio-Economic Statistical Studies, Ryka Garmani ('22), 2021-2022
- Kolbe Summer Research Fellowship, Nicholas Silvis ('23), 2021
- Honors Thesis, Abigail Hauer ('21), 2021
- Research Assistant, Megan Keene ('21), 2020
- Honors Thesis, Kevin Benavente ('20) (Best Thesis Award; Eisenhower Prize for Best Quantitative Thesis), 2020
- Honors Thesis, Angelica Marra ('18) (Best Thesis Award; Eisenhower Prize for Best Quantitative Thesis), 2018
- Honors Thesis, Phoebe Do ('17) (Eisenhower Prize for Best Quantitative Thesis), 2017
- William Railing Summer Fellowship Program, Angelica Marra ('18), 2016
- Research Assistant, Eric Brown ('17), 2016
- Individualized Study-Research, Phoebe Do ('17), 2016
- Mellon Summer Research Fellowship, Phoebe Do ('17), 2015
- Mellon Summer Research Fellowship, Thomas Segerstrom ('17), 2015

---

## **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**

---

- NBER Summer Institute in Environment and Energy Economics (attendee), 2021
- Western Economic Association Annual Meetings, 2019
- US International Trade Commission Economics Seminar, 2016
- Gettysburg College Friday Faculty Lunch Research Presentation, 2015
- Association of Environmental and Resource Economists Annual Meetings, 2015
- Eastern Economic Association Annual Meetings, 2015
- Georgetown Economics Department Microeconomics Workshop, 2013
- Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics, Segment 6 (Environment), 2013
- Camp Resources XX, 2013
- Midwest Economic Association Annual Meetings, 2013
- Research Sketch, NBER Summer Institute in Environment & Energy Economics, 2012
- Economics Graduate Student Organization Seminar, Georgetown University, 2009

### **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION, ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING**

---

- Inclusion Partner Program training, 2019
- Trauma Informed Care training, 2018
- LGBTQ Inclusivity training, 2018
- The Whole Student: Intersectionality and Wellbeing Conference, Bringing Theory to Practice, 2017
- Conference on Free Speech and Inclusion, Pennsylvania Consortium for the Liberal Arts, March 2017
- Safe Space Training, 2017
- Title IX and Trauma Informed Pedagogy training, 2017
- Intercultural Development Inventory, 2016

### **OTHER LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

---

- Faculty Liaison to the Center for Career Engagement, 2022-2023
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education Gettysburg College accreditation steering committee, 2022-2023.
- Chair, Working Group IV (Student Experience) for Gettysburg College Middle States accreditation, 2022-2023.
- Economics Department Assessment Coordinator, 2022-2023
- Gettysburg College Presidential Scholar’s Reception poster presentation on student-faculty research, 2017, 2018
- Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees for College Life, 2016-2018
- Chair, Gettysburg College Student Life Committee, 2015-2018
- Council of Economic Advisers Intern Manager, 2010-2011

- Georgetown Economics TA Training Instructor, 2008-2009

#### **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 (beginner)