Michigan State University
Department of Economics
East Lansing, MI 48824

reavesjo@msu.edu
(469) 288-7414
ORCiD ID: 0000-0002-8346-8877

Research Interests

Urban Economics, Public Economics, Industrial Organization

Education

Ph.D. | Economics, Michigan State University   (exp.) 2027

M.A. | Economics, Michigan State University   2023

B.S. & B.A. | Econ., Poli. Sci., & Spanish, University of Tulsa   2021

Work in Progress

"Where to Next? Mobile Broadband and Business Dynamics"

I study the impact of mobile broadband access and smartphone adoption (together, "smartphone access") on business dynamics. Using point-of-interest data in conjunction with estimated 3G access, I find that smartphone access favors establishments and firms that were already prominent prior to this technology becoming available. Rollout decreased establishment churn and increased the proliferation of large regional and national firms. I also identify small positive effects on the likelihood that consumer-facing establishments remain open 1-3 years after entry. Regarding location decisions, I find no evidence to support a change in new entrants' distance to incumbent establishments larger than a few feet.

"Out of Bounds: An Examination of Portland, OR's Urban Growth Boundary"

Urban growth boundaries reduce the supply of developable land; economic intuition suggests that such policies will increase land prices within the boundary and lead to greater density of development. Using a series of expansions in Portland, OR's urban growth boundary from 2008-2019, I conclude that zoning changes caused by annexation to the boundary led to a 67% increase in land value per acre and a 68% increase in total valuation for annexed parcels. Renovation and new construction likewise increase by 5-7 percentage points. Spillover effects on nearby parcels are negligible, and though newly-annexed areas do see about 18% more street intersections and 13% fewer parcels. The effects are largely concentrated in the period of zoning change, which may reflect (re)development in affected areas—not a lasting increase in local housing density.

"Mobile Broadband and Consumer Price Response" [working title]

"Trip-taking and Amenity Exposure" (with Andrew Earle)

"The Micro-Geography of Productivity, Density, and Sorting" (with Oren Ziv)

Peer-Reviewed Publications (Beyond Economics)

Reaves, John, Hope O. Akaeze, Holli A. Schlukebir, Steven R. Miller, Henry O. Akaeze, and Jamie Heng-Chieh Wu. "More Care, More Workers? Gauging the Impact of Child Care Access on Labor Force Participation." *MDPI Social Sciences*, July 2025. Accessible [here](#).

Zhang, Huiwen Helen, Steven Buchele, Devin P. Raine, John T. Reaves, & Mark Brennen VanderVeen. "Applying Transreading in Teaching Literaturphilosophie: Laozi, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Olav H. Hauge." Chapter in *Handbook of Research on Multilingual and Multicultural Perspectives on Higher Education and Implications for Teaching*, 2022. Information accessible [here](#).

Reaves, John, Timothy Flavin, Bhaskar Mitra, Mahantesh K, and Vidhyashree Nagaraju. "Assessment And Application of EEG: A Literature Review." *Journal of Applied Bioinformatics & Computational Biology*, July 2021. Accessible [here](#).

Non-Reviewed Publications and Technical Reports

[UNDER REVIEW: Journal of Injury, Function, and Rehabilitation] Halliday, Salina E., Danielle Hanson, Sara Kim, Adam Lamm, John T. Reaves, and Kelly Armstrong. "The Effects of Engagement in Wheelchair Sports on Depression and Anxiety Outcomes for Individuals with Physical Disability." Submitted June 2025.

Pierce, S. J., Ulusoy, E., & Reaves, J. "Comparing year 1 cumulative scores across sites for the COM 2028 cohort." [Report prepared for College of Osteopathic Medicine, Michigan State University]. Center for Statistical Training and Consulting, Michigan State University, 2025.

Pierce, S. J., Ulusoy, E., & Reaves, J. "Comparing year 1 cumulative scores across sites for the COM 2028 cohort: Technical details." [Technical report prepared for College of Osteopathic Medicine, Michigan State University]. Center for Statistical Training and Consulting, Michigan State University, 2025.

Carlson, John S., John Reaves, Steven J. Pierce, Sarina Roschmann, Skye Taylor, and Erin Werth. "Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Statewide Wraparound Evaluation." [Report prepared for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services]. Center for Statistical Training and Consulting, Michigan State University, 2025.

Flavin, Timothy, Thomas Steiner, John Reaves, Julian Abhari, Zoe Delap, Bhaskar Mitra, and Vidhyashree Nagaraju. "ML Democracy: An Enhanced Voting Algorithm for Model Selection for Efficient EEG Data Assessment." *21st IEEE International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (ICMLA)*, 2022. Accessible [here](#).

Hendricks, Matthew D., John Reaves, and Gary Watts. "Understanding the Impact of the Five Lagging Chargeables in Oklahoma's State Aid Formula and Policy Implications." *Institute for the Study of Education Finance*, Sept. 2020. Accessible [here](#).

Teaching

Instructor, PPL 802 — Quantitative Methods in Public Policy II	SP24
Instructor, EC 201 — Introduction to Microeconomics	SU23
TA, EC 201 — Introduction to Microeconomics	FA22-FA23, FA24, FA25
TA, EC 301 — Intermediate Microeconomics	SP22

TA, EC 302 — Intermediate Macroeconomics   FA21

Presentations

2025: MSU Grand River Conference, Urban Economics Association (forthcoming), Southern Economics Association (forthcoming)

2024: MSU Red Cedar Conference, Urban Economics Association, Southern Economics Association (coauthor presenting)

2023: MSU Graduate Student Seminar (internal), National Tax Association (poster session)

Research and Professional Experience

RA, Center for Statistical Training and Consulting (CSTAT) | Michigan State	2025-
RA, Antonio Galvao (short-term) | Michigan State	2025
RA, Jamie Wu & Steven Miller (CEPR) | Michigan State	2023-2024
RA, Vidhyashree Nagaraju (Computer Science) | University of Tulsa	2020-2021
RA, Matthew Hendricks (Economics) | University of Tulsa	Summer 2020

Service

Graduate Micro Tutoring | Michigan State	2022-Present
IIT Teaching Fellowship | Michigan State	2024-2025
Graduate Student (First-Year) Mentor | Michigan State	2022-2024
Economics Graduate Student Organization Representative | Michigan State	2022-2023
Graduate Employees Union (GEU) Steward | Michigan State	2022-Present
Economics Department (R) Coding Boot Camp	Fall 2023

Software Proficiency

R/RStudio, LaTeX, Git/Github, Tableau, Stata