

# BENJAMIN T. SKINNER

web: [btskinner.io](https://btskinner.io) | [github.com/btskinner](https://github.com/btskinner)

---

## POSITION

---

2024 - present      Data Scientist, National Endowment for the Humanities

---

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

---

2019 - 2023      Assistant Professor of Higher Education and Policy, University of Florida  
2018 - 2019      Research Assistant Professor of Education and Public Policy, University of Virginia  
2017 - 2018      Research Assistant Professor of Education, University of Virginia

---

## AFFILIATIONS

---

2019 - 2023      Institute of Higher Education, University of Florida  
2018 - 2019      Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, University of Virginia  
2017 - 2019      EdPolicyWorks, University of Virginia

---

## EDUCATION

---

2017	Leadership and Policy Studies, Vanderbilt University	Ph.D.
2008	Humanities, University of Chicago	M.A.
2006	Music and English, Vanderbilt University	B.Mus.

---

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Education policy; college access; community colleges and broad access universities; broadband; Bayesian methods; data science/statistical computing; causal inference; data visualization; open source

---

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Journal articles

- Skinner, B. T., Levy, H., & Burtch, T. (2023). "Digital redlining: The relevance of 20th century housing policy to 21st century broadband access and education." *Educational Policy*.
- Bird, K. A., Castleman, B. L., Fischer, B., & Skinner, B. T. (2022). "Unfinished business? academic and labor market profile of adults with substantial college credits but no degree." *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 44(3), 404–428.
- Worsham, R., Whatley, M., Crain, A., Deal, S., & Skinner, B. T. (2022). "Assessing the role of spatial inequality in transfer student success." *Community College Review*.
- Ortagus, J. C., Skinner, B. T., & Tanner, M. (2021). "Investigating why academically successful community college students leave college without a degree." *AERA Open*, 7(1), 1–17.
- Skinner, B. T., & Doyle, W. R. (2021). "Do civic returns to higher education differ across subpopulations? An analysis using propensity forests." *Journal of Education Finance*, 46(4), 519–562.
- Baker, D. J., Skinner, B. T., & Redding, C. (2020). "Affirmative intervention to reduce stereotype threat bias: Experimental evidence from a community college." *The Journal of Higher Education*, 91(5), 722–754.

Updated: 9 January 2024

- Skinner, B. T. (2019). "Making the connection: Broadband access and online course enrollment at public open admissions institutions." *Research in Higher Education*, 60(7), 960–999.
- Skinner, B. T. (2019). "Choosing college in the 2000s: An updated analysis using the conditional logistic choice model." *Research in Higher Education*, 60(2), 153–183.
- Doyle, W. R., & Skinner, B. T. (2017). "Does postsecondary education result in civic benefits?" *The Journal of Higher Education*, 88(6), 863–893.
- Doyle, W. R., & Skinner, B. T. (2016). "Estimating the education-earnings equation using geographic variation." *Economics of Education Review*, 53, 254–267.
- Heyneman, S. P., & Skinner, B. T. (2014). "The Bologna Process in the countries of the former Soviet Union: An outsider's perspective." *Journal of the European Higher Education Area*, 01/2014.

### Book chapters

- Skinner, B. T., & Doyle, W. R. (2022). Do civic returns to higher education differ across subpopulations? An analysis using propensity forests. In W. W. McMahon & J. A. Delaney (Eds.), *The External Social Benefits of Higher Education*. Linton Atlantic Books.

## SUBMITTED PAPERS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

---

- Ortagus, J. C., Skinner, B. T., Allchin, H., McFarlin, I., & Tanner, M. (2023). "Experimental evidence of the impact of re-enrollment campaigns on long-term academic outcomes."
- Skinner, B. T. (2023). Critical MRP. In R. Alexander, A. Gelman, & L. Kennedy (Eds.), *Multilevel regression and poststratification: A practical guide and new developments*.
- Skinner, B. T., Burtch, T., & Levy, H. (2022). "Variation in broadband access among undergraduate populations across the United States." *Annenberg Institute at Brown University*, (EdWorkingPaper: 22-667).
- Skinner, B. T., & Doyle, W. R. (2022). "Predicting postsecondary attendance by family income in the United States using multilevel regression with poststratification." *SSRN*.

## POLICY REPORTS, BRIEFS, AND OTHER WRITING

---

- Skinner, B., Ortagus, J., & Tanner, M. (2022). "Why community college students quit despite being almost finished." *The Conversation*.
- Bird, K. A., Castleman, B. L., Fischer, B., & Skinner, B. T. (2022). "Why aren't more adults finishing community college? and can we get them back in the classroom?" *Brookings Institution Brown Center Chalkboard*.

## ANALYST

---

- Institute for Research on Higher Education. (2016). *College affordability diagnosis: National report* (tech. rep.). Institute for Research on Higher Education, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.

## SOFTWARE PACKAGES

---

Skinner, B. T. (2020). *crosswalkr: Rename and Encode Data Frames Using External Crosswalk Files*.  
 Skinner, B. T. (2020). *rscorecard: A Method to Download Department of Education College Scorecard Data*.  
 Skinner, B. T. (2018). *duawranglr: Securely Wrangle Dataset According to Data Usage Agreement*.  
 Skinner, B. T. (2017). *distRcpp: Compute Geodesic Distance and Distance-Weighted Measures Using Rcpp*.  
 Skinner, B. T. (2016). *GitRoom Manager: GitHub classroom manager*.

## GRANTS AND FUNDING

---

### External

2022 - 2023	Co-Principal Investigator <i>Democratizing Quality Course Sequence Knowledge</i> , Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	\$509,824
-------------	--	-----------

### Internal

2022	Principal Investigator <i>Building a national-level data set of broadband connectivity at colleges and universities</i> , HDOSE Strategic Reinvestment Grant	\$12,500
------	---	----------

## PRESENTATIONS

---

### Peer-reviewed conference presentations

\*\*Co-author presenter

\*\*Morales, O., Skinner, B. T., & Doyle, W. R. "Employing machine learning approaches in predicting incomes of recent college graduates." In: Poster presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 48th Annual Conference, Denver, CO, 2023, March.

\*\*Ortagus, J. C., Skinner, B. T., Allchin, H., McFarlin, I., & Tanner, M. "Experimental evidence of the impact of re-enrollment campaigns on long-term academic outcomes." In: Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 48th Annual Conference, Denver, CO, 2023, March.

Burtch, T., & Skinner, B. T. "Broadband access and online postsecondary enrollment." In: Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 48th Annual Conference, Denver, CO, 2023, March.

\*\*Burtch, T., & Skinner, B. T. "Broadband access and online postsecondary enrollment." In: Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Las Vegas, NV, 2022, November.

Skinner, B. T., \*\*Morales, O., & Doyle, W. R. "Employing machine learning approaches in predicting incomes of recent college graduates." In: Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Las Vegas, NV, 2022, November.

Skinner, B. T., \*\*Burtch, T., & Levy, H. "Variation in broadband access among undergraduate populations across the United States." In: Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 47th Annual Conference, Denver, CO. 2022, March.

Skinner, B. T., Burtch, T., & Levy, H. "Variation in broadband access among undergraduate populations across the United States." In: Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, San Juan, PR. 2021, November.

- Skinner, B. T., & Doyle, W. R. "Predicting postsecondary attendance by income in the United States using multilevel regression with poststratification." In: Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, San Juan, PR, 2021, November.
- Skinner, B. T., Levy, H., & Burtch, T. "Digital redlining: The relevance of HOLC neighborhood classifications on broadband access." In: Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 46th Annual Conference, (Virtual), 2021, March.
- Ortagus, J., Skinner, B. T., & Tanner, M. "Why did you go? Using Bayesian multilevel regression with poststratification to understand why community colleges students exit early." In: Paper presented at the MRP Conference, Columbia University, New York, NY (Virtual), 2020, April.
- Ortagus, J., Skinner, B. T., & Tanner, M. "Why did you go? Using Bayesian multilevel regression with poststratification to understand why community colleges students exit early." In: Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 45th Annual Conference, Ft. Worth, TX (Virtual), 2020, March.
- Skinner, B. T., & Doyle, W. R. "Are civic returns to higher education different across subpopulations? An analysis using propensity forests." In: Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Portland, OR, 2019, November.
- Bird, K., Castleman, B., Fischer, B., & Skinner, B. T. "Students with some college, but no degree: A statewide descriptive analysis." In: Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 44th Annual Conference, Kansas City, KS, 2019, March.
- Skinner, B. T. "Online courses and degree attainment: Estimating state-level differences using nationally representative data." In: Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 43rd Annual Conference, Portland, OR, 2018, March.
- Skinner, B. T. "Virtually the same: Estimating the effect of online courses on student outcomes at open access institutions in Georgia." In: Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 42nd Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., 2017, March.
- Skinner, B. T. "How has college choice changed? An update for the 2000s using the conditional logit model." In: Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Columbus, OH, 2016, November.
- Skinner, B. T. "Virtually the same: Estimating the effect of online courses on student outcomes at open access institutions in Georgia." In: Paper presented in roundtable discussion at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Columbus, OH, 2016, November.
- Skinner, B. T., & Doyle, W. R. "Democratization, diversion, and profit: The impact of for-profit institutions on degree attainment." In: Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Columbus, OH, 2016, November.
- Skinner, B. T. "Modeling college enrollment via conditional logit: How has college choice changed?" In: Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 41st Annual Conference, Denver, CO, 2016, March.
- Skinner, B. T. "Estimating the relationship between broadband speed and distance education at public two-year institutions." In: Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Denver, CO, 2015, November.
- Doyle, W. R., & Skinner, B. T. "Estimating the education-earnings equation using geographic variation." In: Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 40th Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., 2015, February.
- Skinner, B. T. "An event history analysis of delayed college enrollment as a function of employment and wage." In: Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy 39th Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, 2014, March.

Skinner, B. T. “Estimating the connection between broadband connectivity and participation rates in college eLearning.” In: Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, St. Louis, MO, 2013, November.

Skinner, B. T. “Coming up short: The European Credit Transfer System as a measure of quality in the EHEA.” In: Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society, New Orleans, LA, 2013, March.

### Invited presentations and webinars

Read, A., Beaty, T., & Skinner, B. T. “The case for rural America: Broadband access and equity.” In: National Science Policy Network. Webinar in Diversi(tea) series, 2022, March.

Doyle, W. R., & Skinner, B. T. “Using data science to harness the big data revolution.” In: Presidential session presentation at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Denver, CO, 2015, November.

## TEACHING

---

### Instructor

University of Florida | Human Development and Organizational Studies in Education

EDH 6065: *History of American Higher Education*

EDH 6931: *Advanced Writing Seminar*

EDH 6931: *Innovation in Higher Education*

EDH 7050: *Exploration of Research Literature in Higher Education*

EDH 7636: *Organizational Theory of Higher Education*

EDH 7916: *Contemporary Research in Higher Education* [edquant.github.io/edh7916]

Vanderbilt University | Department of Leadership, Policy, & Organizations

LPO 9951: *Research Practicum (PhD)* [btskinner.io/lpo9951]

### Workshops

Association for the Study of Higher Education

2023                      A Gentle Introduction to Bayesian Analysis with Applications to QuantCrit  
Workshop given during ASHE conference | Minneapolis, MN  
*Website/Course materials:* btskinner.io/ashe\_bayes

University of Virginia | Curry School of Education | EdPolicyWorks

2018                      Workshop on R  
Three-day workshop on R statistical language  
*Website/Course materials:* btskinner.io/rworkshop

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

---

2016 - 2017	Bonsal Applied Education Research Award	\$10,000
2016 - 2017	Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning Graduate Fellow	\$5,500
2012 - 2016	Peabody Graduate Fellowship	
2012	ExpERT Pre-Doctoral Fellow	
2005	Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program	\$4,000

## ***CERTIFICATIONS***

---

2014 / 2018      What Works Clearinghouse Certified Reviewer (Standards Version 3.0 & 4.0)

## ***PROFESSIONAL, UNIVERSITY, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE***

---

### **Professional Service**

Association for the Study of Higher Education

2018      Member      Bobby Wright Dissertation of the Year Committee

### **University Service**

University of Florida

2023 - 2023	Chair-elect	College of Education Faculty Policy Council
2022 - 2023	Member	College of Education Faculty Policy Council
2023 - 2023	Vice President	United Faculty of Florida - UF
2022 - 2023	Fellow	United Faculty of Florida - UF
2022 - 2023	Steward	United Faculty of Florida - UF

Vanderbilt University

2016 - 2017	Co-coordinator	LPO Quantitative Methods Workshop
2014	Planning Committee	Crucial Conversations

### **Community Service**

Charlottesville, VA

2018      Project Fellow      Smart Cville Civic Innovation Day

## ***PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS***

---

### **Editorial Board**

Research in Higher Education (2021 - 2023)

### **Ad-Hoc Referee**

American Education Research Journal, AERA Open, Economics of Education Review, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Education Finance and Policy, Educational Researcher, Journal of Diversity in Higher Education, Journal of Higher Education, Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness, PLOS One, Review of Educational Research

### **Professional Memberships**

American Educational Research Association (AERA)  
 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)  
 Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)

## ***MEDIA***

---

Salman, J. (2021). "Racial segregation is one reason some families have internet access and others don't, new research finds." *Hechinger Report*.