

# CJ Libassi

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## Education

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<b>Teachers College</b> PhD in Economics and Education	September 2021 - Present
<b>University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy</b> Master of Public Policy	September 2013 - May 2015
<b>American University</b> Master of Arts in Teaching	August 2010 - August 2012
<b>University of Scranton</b> Bachelor of Arts in English, Spanish, and Philosophy	September 2006 - May 2010

## Relevant Experience

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<b>US Department of Education, Office of the Chief Economist</b> Senior Advisor and Federation of American Scientists Impact Fellow	Washington May 2022 - January 2024
<b>Community College Research Center</b> Senior Research Assistant	New York June 2021 - Present
<b>College Board</b> Senior Policy Research Analyst	Washington April 2018 - March 2021
<b>George Washington University</b> Professorial Lecturer	Washington January 2018 - May 2021
<b>Center for American Progress</b> Policy Analyst	Washington July 2016 - December 2018
<b>Education Policy Initiative, University of Michigan</b> Research Area Specialist	Ann Arbor May 2015 - December 2016

**Comunidad de Madrid**  
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant

Madrid  
September 2012 - December 2013

**Prince George's County Public Schools**  
Foreign Language Teacher / Teach For America Corps Member

Upper Marlboro  
June 2010 - December 2012

## **Publications and Works in Progress**

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### **Publications**

- Judith Scott-Clayton, CJ Libassi, Veronica Minaya, and Joshua K.R. Thomas. "Who Rides Out the Storm? The Immediate Post-College Transition and its Role in Socioeconomic Earnings Gaps" *National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)*, 2025
- Susan Dynarski, CJ Libassi, Katherine Micheltore, and Stephanie Owen. "Closing the Gap: The Effect of Reducing Complexity and Uncertainty in College Pricing on the Choices of Low-Income Students" *American Economic Review*, 2021
- Zachary Mabel, CJ Libassi, and Michael Hurwitz. "The value of using early-career earnings data in the College Scorecard to guide college choices" *Economics of Education Review*, 2020

### **Working Papers**

- Judith Scott-Clayton, CJ Libassi, Veronica Minaya, and Joshua K.R. Thomas. "Who Rides Out the Storm? The Immediate Post-College Transition and its Role in Socioeconomic Earnings Gaps", *NBER Working Paper No. 34366*, October 2025
- CJ Libassi, Michel Grosz, Sophie McGuinness, Jordan Matsudaira, and Rajeev Darolia. "An Overview of Graduate Borrowing and Outcomes", *OCE Working Paper No. OCE2024-007*, US Department of Education, January 2025

### **Works in Progress**

- CJ Libassi. "Pell Away from the Cutoffs: A Simulated Instrument Approach to Estimating the Effects of the Pell Grant from Changes in Formula Generosity Over Time" [Job Market Paper]

### **Selected Other Writing**

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- CJ Libassi and Julia Turner. "Debt and Earnings in Graduate School: Moving Beyond Standard Measures for the Typical Student in the Short Term." PSEO Coalition, 2025.
- CJ Libassi and Zachary Mabel. "A Closer Look at College Affordability: The Link between Living Allowances and Student Debt." Urban Institute, 2022.
- Judith Scott-Clayton, CJ Libassi, and Daniel Sparks. "The Fine Print on Free College: Who Benefits from New York's Excelsior Scholarship? An Essay for the Learning Curve.." Urban Institute, 2022.
- Jennifer Ma, Matea Pender, CJ Libassi, and Sandy Baum (co-author 2018-2019). "Trends in College Pricing" and "Trends in Student Aid." College Board, 2018, 2019, 2020.
- CJ Libassi. "The Neglected College Race Gap: Racial Disparities Among College Completers." Center for American Progress, 2018.
- Ben Miller and CJ Libassi. "Sharing the Risk: A Plan for Colleges to Participate in the Costs of Student Loan Failure." Center for American Progress, 2016.

### **Teaching Experience**

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**George Washington University**

*Professorial Lecturer, Data Analysis for Journalism and Political Communication*

Washington, DC

Spring 2018 - 2021

## Fellowships

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Institute of Education Sciences Predoctoral Training Grant, PEAR Fellowship

2021-2025

## Invited Presentations and Conferences

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**2025:** APPAM Fall Research Conference (Seattle, WA), MidSouth Education Policy Workshop; **2024:** Office of the Chief Economist Conference, US Department of Education (Washington, DC); **2021:** Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP); **2020:** Society of Government Economists (SGE); **2019:** APPAM Fall Research Conference; **2018:** Southern Economic Association (SEA)

## Service

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**Referee:** *Economics of Education Review*, *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Social Science Review*

**Co-organizer:** DC Economics of Education Seminar Series (2017-2019)

## Grants Received

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**2025:** PSEO Coalition Research Grant: “Debt and Earnings in Graduate School: Moving Beyond Standard Measures for the Typical Student in the Short Term” (Co-Principal Investigator with Julia Turner), \$15,000