

DAVID C. PHILLIPS

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EMPLOYMENT

University of Notre Dame

Research Professor, Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities and Department of Economics, 7/2022 – present

Director of Research, Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities, 7/2024 - present

Associate Research Professor, Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities and Department of Economics, 7/2018 – 6/2022

Assistant Research Professor, Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities and Department of Economics, 7/2016 – 6/2018

Hope College

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Business, 7/2012 – 6/2016

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fitzgerald Institute for Real Estate, *Faculty Fellow*, 1/2021 – present

US Census Bureau, *Special Sworn Status*, 4/2021 – present

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), *Scientific Advisor on Homelessness and Housing Stability*, 3/2025 – present; *Faculty Affiliate*, 7/2021 – present; *Invited Researcher*, 9/2019 – 7/2021

University of California – Berkeley, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, *Visiting Scholar*, Fall 2022

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, Georgetown University, 2012

M.A. Economics, Georgetown University, 2009

B.A. Economics and Mathematics, Butler University, 2007

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Urban Economics, Labor Economics

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Phillips, D.C. and J.X. Sullivan (2025) “Do Homelessness Prevention Programs Prevent Homelessness? Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial.” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 107(5).

Brough, R., M. Freedman, and D.C. Phillips (2025) “Eliminating Fares to Expand Opportunities: Experimental Evidence on the Impacts of Free Public Transportation on Economic and Social Disparities.” *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.

Batistich, M.K., D.C. Phillips and W.N. Evans (2025) “Reducing Re-arrests through Light Touch Mental Health Outreach” *Journal of Urban Economics*, 146.

- Brough, R., D.C. Phillips, and P. Turner (2024) “High Schools Tailored To Adults Can Help Them Complete a Traditional Diploma and Excel in the Labor Market.” *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 16(4).
- Phillips, D.C. and J.X. Sullivan (2024) “Personalizing Homelessness Prevention: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 43(4).
- Brough, R., M. Freedman and D.C Phillips (2022) “Experimental Evidence on the Effects of Means-Tested Public Transportation Subsidies on Travel Behavior.” *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 96.
- Brough, R., M. Freedman, D. Ho and D.C. Phillips (2022) “Can Transportation Subsidies Reduce Failures to Appear in Criminal Court? Evidence from a Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial.” *Economics Letters*, 216.
- Downes, H., D.C. Phillips, and J.X. Sullivan (2022) “The Effect of Emergency Financial Assistance on Healthcare Use.” *Journal of Public Economics*, 208.
- Aliprantis, D., H. Martin, and D. Phillips (2022) “Landlords and Access to Opportunity.” *Journal of Urban Economics*, 129.
- Evans, W., D.C. Phillips, and K. Ruffini (2021) “Policies to Reduce and Prevent Homelessness: What We Know and Gaps in the Research.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 40(3).
- Brough, R., M. Freedman, and D.C. Phillips (2021) “Understanding Socioeconomic Disparities in Travel Behavior during the COVID-19 Pandemic” *Journal of Regional Science*, 61(4).
- Phillips, D.C. (2020) “Measuring Housing Stability with Consumer Reference Data.” *Demography*, 57(4).
- Phillips, D.C. (2020) “Do Low-Wage Employers Discriminate against Applicants with Long Commutes? Evidence from a Correspondence Experiment.” *Journal of Human Resources*, 55(3).
- Phillips, D.C. (2019) “Do Comparisons of Fictional Applicants Measure Discrimination When Search Externalities are Present? Evidence from Existing Experiments.” *Economic Journal*, 621.
- Palmer, C., D.C. Phillips, and J.X. Sullivan (2019) “Does Emergency Financial Assistance Reduce Crime?” *Journal of Public Economics*, 169.
- Estelle, S.M. and D.C. Phillips (2018) “Smart Sentencing Guidelines: The Effect of Marginal Policy Changes on Recidivism.” *Journal of Public Economics*, 164.
- Kuersteiner, G.M., D.C. Phillips, and M. Villamizar-Villegas (2018) “Effective Sterilized Foreign Exchange Market Intervention? Evidence from a Rule-Based Policy.” *Journal of International Economics*, 113.
- Billings, S. and Phillips D.C. (2017) “Why Do Kids Get into Trouble on School Days? Evidence from Teacher Work Days.” *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 65.
- Phillips, D.C. (2017) “Landlords Avoid Tenants Who Pay with Vouchers.” *Economics Letters*, 151.

- Phillips, D.C. (2017) “Stopping on Nine: Evidence of Heuristic Managerial Decision-Making in Major League Baseball Pitcher Substitutions.” *Southern Economic Journal*, 84(2).
- Mange, B. and D.C. Phillips (2016) “Career Interruption and Productivity: Evidence from Major League Baseball During the Vietnam War Era,” *Journal of Human Capital*, 10(2).
- Phillips, D.C. and D. Sandler (2015) “Does Public Transit Spread Crime? Evidence from Temporary Rail Station Closures,” *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 52.
- Phillips, D.C. (2014) “Getting to Work: Experimental Evidence on Job Search and Transportation Costs.” *Labour Economics*, 29.
- Antwi, J. and D.C. Phillips (2013) “Wages and Health Worker Retention: Evidence from Public Sector Wage Reforms in Ghana.” *Journal of Development Economics*, 102.
- Phillips, D.C. (2011) “You’re Hurting My Game: Lineup Protection and Injuries in Major League Baseball.” *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*, 7(3).

OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Hungerman, D., D.C. Phillips, K. Rinz, J.X. Sullivan, and D.N. Wasser (2025) “The Effect of Emergency Financial Assistance on Mobility, SNAP Receipt, and Presence of Dependents.” *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 115.

Phillips, D.C. (2018) “Incarnation and mission in economics.” *Faith and Economics*, 71.

Phillips, D.C., C.H. Herbst, and Y. Zolia (2016) “Sensitive Survey Techniques to Capture Information from Health Workers: An Example of their Application in Liberia.” in *Health Labor Market Analyses in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: An Evidence-Based Approach*, ed. R.M. Scheffler, C.H. Herbst, C. Lemiere, and J. Campbell. World Bank Group.

Jaskiewicz, W., C. Lemiere, D.C. Phillips, and J. Spetz. (2016) “Measuring and Analyzing Salaries and Incentives.” in *Health Labor Market Analyses in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: An Evidence-Based Approach*, ed. R.M. Scheffler, C.H. Herbst, C. Lemiere, and J. Campbell. World Bank Group.

Phillips, D.C. (2016) Book review of *Education Policy in Developing Countries*, ed. Paul Glewwe, *Faith and Economics*, 67.

Phillips, D.C., C.H. Herbst, D. Haddad, and A. Soucat (2013) “Health Worker Wages Before and After the Salary Rationalization Program of 2006.” in *Towards Interventions in Human Resources for Health in Ghana: Evidence for Health Workforce Planning and Results*, ed. E. Appiah-Denkyira, C.H. Herbst, A. Soucat, C. Lemiere, and K. Saleh. The World Bank.

POPULAR PRESS WRITING

“Solving homelessness requires more evidence and less politics.” *The Hill*, 8/29/2023, with Bill Evans and Jim Sullivan.

“Money to stop evictions could also help stop crime.” *Washington Post*, 8/25/2020, with Jim Sullivan.

“Hiring Managers are Biased Against People with Long Commutes.” *Harvard Business Review* (Digital Article), 12/10/2018.

“Taking the Bus to Opportunity.” World Bank Development Impact Blog, 12/6/2011.

WORKING PAPERS

“Means-Tested Public Transportation Subsidies: Causal Evidence and Implications” with Seoyoon Ahn, Matt Freedman, and Athleen Venkataramani

“How Do Holistic Wrap-Around Anti-Poverty Programs Affect Employment and Individualized Outcomes?” with Javier Espinosa, Bill Evans, and Tim Spilde

“The Effects of Emergency Rental Assistance During the Pandemic: Evidence from Four Cities” with Rob Collinson, Anthony DeFusco, John Eric Humphries, Ben Keys, Vincent Reina, Patrick Turner, and Winnie van Dijk

“The Effect of Emergency Financial Assistance on Employment and Earnings” with Dan Hungerman, Kevin Rinz, and Jim Sullivan

RESTING PAPER

“What Really is Brain Drain?: Location of Birth, Education, and Migration Dynamics of African Doctors,” with Caglar Ozden

EXTERNAL GRANTS

“Testing the Impact of Subsidized Public Transit for Unemployed Persons” – PI; J-PAL North America, 2024-2027, \$128,570

“Expanding Capacity for Causal Evidence Building in the Criminal Justice Space” – PI; Arnold Ventures, 2024-2028, \$1,122,334

“Impact Evaluation of Intensive Homelessness Prevention” – PI; J-PAL North America, 2024-2027, \$100,000

“Evaluation of Moving to Work Cohort 4 Landlord Incentives” – Co-Investigator; US Department of Housing and Urban Development (via Abt Associates); 2022-2026; \$64,373

“Researching the Impact of Fare-Free Public Transit on the Health and Well-being of People Living in Poverty” – PI; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – Evidence for Action; 2021-2023; \$622,996.

“Eliminating Fares to Expand Opportunities: Experimental Evidence on the Impacts of Free Public Transportation” – PI; National Bureau of Economic Research; 2021-2022; \$60,671

“Lotteries of Temporary Housing Assistance during the COVID-19 Epidemic” – PI; J-PAL North America; 2021-2022; \$100,000

“Impact Evaluation of Bridges to Success” – PI; Arnold Ventures; 2021; \$93,572

“Randomized Control Trial to Evaluate the Effect of Security Deposit Assistance in Kalamazoo, Michigan.” PI, J-PAL North America; 2021; \$50,000.

“Randomized Controlled Trial of the Effects of Rapid Rehousing on Single Adults” – Co-PI, National Science Foundation, 2019-2023; \$349,200

“Impact Evaluation of Rapid Re-Housing for Singles in Santa Clara County” – Co-PI; J-PAL North America, 2019-2021; \$336,945

“A Randomized Controlled Trial of Transportation Subsidies to Reduce Failure to Appear for Pretrial Release” – PI, Arnold Ventures, 2019-2021; \$217,610

“Catching a LIFT to Opportunity: the Effects of Low-Income Transit Fares” – PI, Institute for Research on Poverty and JPB Foundation, 2019-2021, \$99,491.

“Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention: A Randomized Controlled Trial” – co-PI, J-PAL North America, 2019-2021, \$249,801

“Impact Evaluation of Bridges to Success” – Co-PI; J-PAL North America and Gates Foundation; 2017-2020; \$539,940

“Quasi-Experimental Study of the Effects of Homelessness on Health, Drug Abuse, and Health Care Utilization” Co-PI; National Institutes of Health; 2018-2020; \$424,875

“Evaluation of Permanent Supportive Housing for Justice-Involved Frequent Utilizers.” Co-PI; J-PAL North America, 2019, \$49,981.

“Planning Grant for Impact Evaluation of Rapid Re-Housing for Singles in Santa Clara County” – Co-PI (sub-grantee of county’s proposal); J-PAL North America, 2017-2018; \$48,094

“Planning Grant for Impact Evaluations of Homelessness Prevention and LEAD” – Co-PI (sub-grantee of county’s proposal); J-PAL North America; 2017-2018; \$95,808

“Michigan Felony Sentencing Guidelines” – PI; Michigan Colleges Alliance; 2014-2015

“Why Do Employers Avoid Applicants from High-Poverty Neighborhoods?” UC Davis Center for Poverty Research Small Grants Competition; 2013; \$24,880

“Job Search and Transportation Costs for Workers in Washington, DC.” Co-PI; University of Michigan National Poverty Center Small Grants Competition; 2011; \$9,000

EXTERNAL CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2026: ASSA Meetings

2025: APPAM Fall Research Conference, Urban Economics Association Meetings, NBER Summer Institute, Institute for Research on Poverty Sumer Research Workshop, University of Wisconsin Survey Center (virtual), Institute for Research on Poverty (virtual), AEA Meetings, ACE-ASSA

2024: APPAM Fall Research Conference, Urban Economics Association Meetings, National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference, Public Management Research Conference, US Census Bureau Center for Economic Studies (virtual), ASSA Meetings

2023: APPAM Fall Research Conference, Urban Economics Association, University of Illinois-Chicago, Association of Christian Economists Conference, National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference, NBER Public Transportation Meeting, U Washington Econ, U Washington Policy, Oregon State U

2022: U San Francisco, UC-Berkeley (IRLE; Possibility Lab), NBER Economics of Transportation in the 21st Century, Advances with Field Experiments, APPAM Fall Research Conference, AREUEA-ASSA

2021: National Tax Association, Urban Economics Association Meetings, Urban Economics Association – European Meeting, AEA Meetings, AREUEA-ASSA

2020: APPAM Fall Research Conference, Discrimination and Disparities Seminar, AREUEA-ASSA

2019: APPAM Fall Research Conference, Urban Economics Association Meetings, Minneapolis Fed/Brookings Conference on Expanding and Diversifying Housing, Advances with Field Experiments, Cleveland Fed, FDIC, UC-Irvine, AEA Meetings, AREUEA-ASSA

2018: APPAM Fall Research Conference, DC Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Urban Economics Association Meetings, Stanford CASBS Impact Evaluation Design Lab, Lab @ DC

2017: Urban Economics Association Meetings, APPAM Fall Research Conference, Society of Labor Economists Annual Meetings

2016: Urban Economics Association Meetings, Hope College Critical Issues Symposium, Butler University, University of Notre Dame, University of Louisville, LERA-ASSA; AREUEA-ASSA; ACE-ASSA

2015: University of Alabama, UC Davis Center for Poverty Research Small Grants Conference, State of Michigan Criminal Justice Policy Commission, World Bank (DIME) Global Impact Evaluation Workshop for Transport and ICT, Society of Labor Economists Annual Meetings, Georgetown Center for Economic Research Conference, Economics of Global Poverty Conference

2014: Urban Economics Association Meetings, Michigan State Ag. Econ, Calvin College

2013: Western Michigan University, Urban Economics Association Meetings, Southern Economic Association Meetings, Economics of Global Poverty Workshop

2012: Economics of Global Poverty Workshop, Inter-American Development Bank Research Department, Oxford-CSAE Workshop on Urban Mass Housing, Hope College, Wheaton College, Transylvania University, Smith College, University of Chicago, RAND Corporation

2011: Urban Economics Association Meetings, Southern Economic Association Meetings, Georgetown Center for Economic Research Conference, World Bank/AFD Conference on Migration and Development, IZA Migration Meetings, Midwest International Economic Development Conference, CReAM/Norface Interdisciplinary Migration Conference

2010: Northeast Universities Development Consortium Conference

REFEREE AND REVIEWER EXPERIENCE

Referee for economics journals: Quarterly Journal of Economics, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Urban Economics, European Economic Review, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Labour Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, American Law and Economics Review, Economics of Education Review, Economic Inquiry, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Journal of Population Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Journal of Housing Economics, Contemporary Economic Policy, Faith and Economics

Referee for policy and other social science journals: Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Health Affairs, Demography, American Journal of Sociology, Journal of Quantitative

Criminology, Journal of Experimental Criminology, Housing Policy Debate, American Journal of Criminal Justice, Social Forces, Regional Studies, Journal of Regional Science, Annals of Regional Science, World Development Perspectives, Oxford Development Studies, Human Resources for Health, Global Journal of Health Science

Reviewer for grant proposals: National Science Foundation, J-PAL North America, Arnold Ventures, Russell Sage Foundation, World Bank DIME, Homelessness Policy Research Institute, Israel Science Foundation

Reviewer for conferences: APPAM Fall Research Conference (housing sub-committee member, reviewer), Georgetown Center for Economic Research Alumni Conference

SUPERVISION OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Andrew Hoover – third-year paper advisor - 2025
Tim Spilde – committee member – 2025
Tyler Giles – committee member – 2021

SUPERVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE THESES

Emma Leedy - 2026

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Hope College
Professor: Economics of Poverty in the US; Econometrics; Economic Development and Growth; Principles of Macroeconomics; Principles of Microeconomics

Georgetown University

Instructor: Economic Statistics (Undergraduate); Math Camp (Ph.D.)
Teaching Assistant: Macroeconomics II (Ph.D.), Industrial Organization (Undergraduate), Micro Theory (Undergraduate), Microeconomics I (Ph.D.), Principles of Macroeconomics (Undergraduate)

AWARDS

Towsley Research Scholar Runner-Up, Hope College, 2014
Razin Prize for Best Dissertation Paper, Georgetown University Economics Department, 2012
Dissertation Defended with Distinction, Georgetown University, 2012
Best TA in a Graduate Course, Spring 2010
University Fellowship, Georgetown University, 2007-2011
Distinction on Macroeconomics Comprehensive Exam, Georgetown University, 2008

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Abt Associates
Technical Advisor
Duties: Technical advisory panel for a study of landlord engagement in the Housing Choice Voucher program as part of phase 4 of Moving To Work

World Bank, Latin American and Caribbean Region, HNP

Short Term Consultant, 2013
Duties: Building healthcare productivity measures for Costa Rica
Analysis of data on productivity and salaries

World Bank, Africa Region, HNP, Technical Team on Human Resources for Health

Short Term Consultant, 2012-2013
Duties: Policy research on human resources for health
Consulting on survey design
Data analysis

Authoring reports on moonlighting and motivation
Mission travel to Liberia
Countries: Liberia, Nigeria, Seychelles

Short Term Consultant, 2009-2010

Duties: Policy research on health worker salaries in Ghana
Collection and analysis of administrative data
Lead author of a policy paper
Participating in policy meetings
Interpreting academic research for policymakers

UNPUBLISHED POLICY REPORTS

- “Health Workforce Productivity and Efficiency in the Caja Costarricense del Seguro Social” 2014
- “Cost Trends and Productivity of Human Resources in Hospitals and Health Areas of Costa Rica: A Preliminary Analysis.” 2013
- “Performance, Motivation, Incentives, and Professional Probity of Health Workers in Liberia: Using Experimental and Mixed Tools to Inform a P4P Operation.” 2013
- “Income Sources of Liberian Health Workers.” 2012
- “Report on Motivation and Outside Income for Health Workers in Nigeria.” 2012
- “Impact of Wage Increases on Outmigration in Ghana.” 2009