

MARTIN O'CONNELL

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Department of Economics

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CURRENT

University of Wisconsin-Madison

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics (2021–)

PAST

Institute for Fiscal Studies

EMPLOYMENT

Deputy Research Director (2019–21), Associate Director (2016–18)

Senior Research Economist (2011–15), Research Economist (2008–11)

AFFILIATIONS

Institute for Fiscal Studies, Research Fellow (2021–)

Center for Economic and Policy Research, Research Affiliate (2017–)

Center for Economic Studies, Research Affiliate (2017–)

EDUCATION

PhD Economics, University College London, 2015

MSc Economics (Dist.), London School of Economics and Political Science, 2008

MA (Hons) Financial Economics (First), University of St. Andrews, 2007

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“Inflation measurement with high-frequency data”, forthcoming at **Journal of Business and Economic Statistics** (2025) (with Kevin J. Fox and Peter Levell)

“A two sample size estimator for large datasets”, **Econometrics Journal** (2025) (with Howard Smith and Øyvind Thomassen)

“Optimal sin taxation and market power”, **American Economic Journal: Applied Economics** 16, 4 (2024) (with Kate Smith)

“Price floors and externality correction”, **Economic Journal** 132, 646 (2022) (with Rachel Griffith and Kate Smith)

“The dietary impact of the COVID-19 pandemic”, **Journal of Health Economics** 82 (2022) (with Kate Smith and Rebekah Stroud)

“Preparing for a pandemic: spending dynamics and panic buying during the COVID-19 first wave”, **Fiscal Studies** 42, 2 (2021) (with Áureo de Paula and Kate Smith)

“Real-time price indices: Inflation spike and falling product variety during the Great Lockdown”, **Journal of Public Economics** 191 (2020) (with Xavier Jaravel)

“How well targeted are soda taxes?”, **American Economic Review** 110, 11 (2020) (with Pierre Dubois and Rachel Griffith)

“A new year, a new you? Heterogeneity and self-control in food purchases”, **European Economic Review** 127 (2020) (with Laurens Cherchye, Bram De Rock, Rachel Griffith, Kate Smith and Frederic Vermeulen)

“Tax design in the alcohol market”, **Journal of Public Economics** 172 (2019) (with Rachel Griffith and Kate Smith)

“The effects of banning advertising in junk food markets”, **Review of Economic Studies** 85, 1 (2018) (with Pierre Dubois and Rachel Griffith)

“Income effects and the welfare consequences of tax in differentiated product oligopoly”, **Quantitative Economics** 9, 1 (2018) (with Rachel Griffith and Lars Nesheim)

“The importance of product reformulation versus consumer choice in improving diet quality”, **Economica** 84, 333 (2016) (with Rachel Griffith and Kate Smith)

“Shopping around? How households adjusted food spending over the Great Recession”, **Economica** 83, 330 (2015) (with Rachel Griffith and Kate Smith)

“Ownership of intellectual property and corporate taxation”, **Journal of Public Economics** 112 (2014) (with Rachel Griffith and Helen Miller)

“Public policy towards food consumption”, **Fiscal Studies** 31, 4 (2010) (with Rachel Griffith)

WORKING PAPERS

“The welfare effects of price shocks and household relief packages: Evidence from an energy crisis” CERP Discussion Paper 19939 (with Peter Levell and Kate Smith)

“Risk protection and redistribution in the design of social insurance” CEPR Discussion Paper 19989 (with Rory McGee)

“Measuring cost of living inequality during an inflation surge” CEPR Discussion Paper 19388 (with Tao Chen and Peter Levell)

“The effects of sin taxes and advertising in a dynamic equilibrium”, **R&R at American Economic Journal: Microeconomics**, CEPR Discussion Paper 18527 (with Rossi Abi-Rafeh, Pierre Dubois and Rachel Griffith)

INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS

“The use of scanner data for economic research”, **Annual Review of Economics**, 14 (2022) (with Pierre Dubois and Rachel Griffith)

“High-frequency changes in shopping behaviours, promotions, and the measurement of Inflation: Evidence from the Great Lockdown”, **Fiscal Studies** 41, 3 (2020) (with Xavier Jaravel)

“Could COVID-19 Infect the Consumer Price Index?” **Fiscal Studies** 41, 2 (2020) (with Richard Blundell, Rachel Griffith and Peter Levell)

“What’s on the Menu? Policies to Reduce Young People’s Sugar Consumption” **Fiscal Studies** (2020) 41, 1 (with Rachel Griffith, Kate Smith and Rebekah Stroud)

“Corrective taxation and externalities from food consumption”, **CESifo Economic Studies** 64, 1 (2018) (with Rachel Griffith and Kate Smith)

“Sugary drinks tax: response from the Institute for Fiscal Studies” **The Lancet** 64, 1 (2016) (with Peter Levell and Kate Smith)

“Relative prices, consumer preferences and the demand for food”, **Oxford Review of Economic Policy**, 31, 1 (2015) (with Rachel Griffith and Kate Smith)

“The use of scanner data for research into nutrition”, **Fiscal Studies**, 30, 3-4 (2009) (with Rachel Griffith)

RESEARCH GRANTS

2025-2027 (Co-investigator) “Evaluation of voluntary measures to restrict the use of price promotions to sell HFSS foods”, NIHR, £212,897

2024-2026 (Co-investigator) “Impacts and responses to the cost-of-living crisis”, ESRC, £250,000

2022-2024 (Co-investigator) “Consumption dynamics and the insurance value of benefits”, ESRC, £289,128

2021-2023 (Principal investigator) “Public policy in food markets: understanding advertising and choice inter-dependencies”, ESRC, £490,066

2020-2021 (Co-investigator) “Heterogeneity in household spending and well-being on retirement”, Social Security Administration Retirement and Disability Research Consortium, \$75,000

2020-2021 (Principal investigator) “The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on food security”, Nuffield Foundation, £147,680

2020-2021 (Principal investigator) “The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on nutrition”, ESRC, £121,511

2018 (Principal investigator) “Research visit to Stanford”, British Academy Small Grant, £10,000

2017-2019 (Principal investigator) “Regulating product characteristic space in food markets”, British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, £325,831

2016-2018 (Co-investigator) “Empirical evidence on the formation of habits, self-control and non-separabilities in food choice”, ERC, €994,772

2016-2018 (Co-investigator) “Food consumption, advertising and dynamics”, ESRC-ORA, £404,705

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	<p>Associate Editor: International Journal of Industrial Organization</p> <p>Refereeing: American Economic Journal: Applied, American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, Economic Journal, Economic Policy, Econometrica, European Economic Review, Fiscal Studies, Food Policy, International Economic Review, International Journal of Economics of Business, International Journal of Industrial Organization, International Tax and Public Finance, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of European Economic Association, Journal of Industrial Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Public Economics, Macroeconomic Dynamics, National Tax Journal, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Quantitative Economics, RAND Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Design, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Industrial Organization, Quarterly Journal of Economics</p>
INVITED SEMINARS	<p>2026: Chigaco-Harris, South Carolina; 2025: United Nations, Virginia, Wisconsin-Milwaukee; 2024: Bank of Columbia, Iowa State, Paris-Saclay; 2022: Berkeley, Michigan, Western Onterio; 2021: Brussels; 2020: Bristol, Cambridge, Chicago Booth, Illinois Urbana-Champagne, Oxford, Warwick, WUSTL, Wisconsin-Madison; 2019: DICE; 2018: Bristol, Leuven, Michigan, USC; 2017: Toulouse, Oxford; 2016: CREST, 2014: St Andrews, Leicester</p>
SELECTED POLICY REPORTS	<p>“Multilateral index methods for Consumer Price Statistics” ESCoE Discussion Paper 2515-4664 (2022) (with Kevin Fox and Peter Levell)</p> <p>“Grocery prices and promotions during the COVID-19 pandemic” IFS BN306 (2020) (with Xavier Jaravel)</p> <p>“The evidence on the effects of soft drinks taxes” IFS BN255 (2019) (with Rachel Griffith, Kate Smith and Rebekah Stroud)</p> <p>“Children’s exposure to TV advertising of food and drink” IFS BN228 (2018) (with Rachel Griffith, Kate Smith and Rebekah Stroud)</p> <p>“Proposed minimum unit price for alcohol would lead to large price rises” IFS BN222 (2017) (with Rachel Griffith and Kate Smith)</p> <p>“The exposure of households’ food spending to tariff changes and exchange rate movements” IFS BN213 (2016) (with Peter Levell and Kate Smith)</p> <p>“Using taxation to reduce sugar consumption” IFS BN180 (2016) (with Rachel Griffith, Melanie Lührmann and Kate Smith)</p> <p>“Excise Duties” IFS Green Budget (2016) (with Peter Levell and Kate Smith)</p>