

Michael Kotrouss

Graduate Research Assistant
John Munro Godfrey, Sr. Department of Economics
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Education

- 2021– **Ph.D. Economics**, University of Georgia (expected May 2026)
2021–2023 **M.A. Economics**, University of Georgia
2011–2015 **B.A. Economics & Journalism**, Creighton University (*summa cum laude*)

Research Interests Industrial organization, labor economics, franchising

Working Papers

- [1] “The Labor Market Effects of No-Poach Clauses in the Quick-Service Restaurant Industry”

Works in Progress

- [2] “Multi-Unit Ownership in U.S. Fast Food Franchising” with Peter Newberry

Refereed Journal Articles (Prior to Graduate School)

- [3] “Broadband Speeds in Fibered Markets: An Empirical Analysis” with James Bailey, 2021 **Journal of Information Policy** 11(2021): 478–522.
[4] “The Benefits of Coronavirus Suppression: A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Response to the First Wave of COVID-19 in the United States” with James Broughel, 2021, **PLOS ONE** 16(6): e0252729

Research Assistantships

Research Assistant for Peter Newberry Su 2023–Su 2025, Sp 2024

Teaching Experience

Instructor, ECON 2105: Principles of Macroeconomics	Su 2024
Assistant for Svetlana Pashchenko, Macroeconomics II (Ph.D.)	Sp 2023–Sp 2025
Assistant for Roozbeh Hosseini, Macroeconomics I (Ph.D.)	Fa 2022–Fa 2025
Assistant for Martin Gervais, Macroeconomics I (Ph.D.) and Economic Analysis for Business Leaders (M.B.A.)	Fa 2023
Assistant for Alice Kinman, Senior Thesis	Sp 2022
Assistant for David Mustard, Principles of Microeconomics (Honors) and Economic Analysis of Law	Fa 2021, Sp 2022

Previous Positions

2023–2024	Analyst, JPinkse LLC, State College, PA
2016–2021	Program Manager, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Arlington, VA
2013–2016	Interactive Web Developer, Swanson Russell, Lincoln, NE

Awards and Fellowships

2021–	Assistant, Bonbright Center for the Study of Regulation at University of Georgia
2025	2025 Swift Undergraduate Teaching Fellow, John Munro Godfrey, Sr. Department of Economics at University of Georgia
2025	Outstanding TA Award, Center for Teaching & Learning at University of Georgia
2021–2022	Bastiat Fellow, Mercatus Center at George Mason University
2015	Winner, Carl Menger Essay Contest, Society for the Development of Austrian Economics Omicron Delta Epsilon, Creighton University
2014–2015	Werner-Robertson Fellow, Institute for Economic Inquiry at Creighton University

Other Published Work

- [5] “Narrowing the Rural Digital Divide with Consumer Vouchers” with Brent Skorup, Mercatus Center Policy Brief, Oct. 2020
- [6] “Quantifying Regulation in U.S. States” with James Broughel and Patrick McLaughlin, Mercatus Center Data Visualization, Nov. 2019
- [7] “Airplane Speeds Have Stagnated for 40 Years” with Eli Dourado, Mercatus Center Data Visualization, Jul. 2016
- [8] “Regulation and Net Neutrality,” Institute for Economic Inquiry at Creighton University, Mar. 2015

Select Essays and Commentary

- [9] “Rural Broadband Deployment in Florida: Recommendations for Reform” with Brent Skorup, *The Journal of the James Madison Institute* 64, Fall 2021
- [10] “Will lockdowns really kill more people than COVID-19 itself?” with James Broughel, Tribune News Service wire, Jun. 2020
- [11] “Why Economists Measure Human Lives in Dollars” with James Broughel, *POLITICO Magazine*, Apr. 2, 2020
- [12] “Refine the FAA’s Remote ID Rules to Ensure Aviation Safety and Public Confidence” with Brent Skorup, Mercatus Center Public Interest Comment to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Mar. 2020
- [13] “Lifting Barriers to Entrepreneurship” with Adam Thierer, Jennifer Huddleston, and Anne Hobson, Mercatus Center Public Interest Comment to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Aug. 2018
- [14] “Flight-sharing could bring Uber to the skies” with Christopher Koopman, *USA Today*, May 2, 2018
- [15] “No Likes for Internet Regulation” with Brent Skorup, *US News & World Report*, Oct. 30, 2017
- [16] “AIM’s demise illustrates the fluidity of the tech market” with Christopher Koopman, *The Hill*, Oct. 16, 2017

Conference Presentations

- 2025 "The Labor Market Effects of No-Poach Clauses in the Quick-Service Restaurant Industry," Southern Economic Assoc.
- 2024 "Multi-Unit Ownership & No-Poach Clauses in U.S. Fast Food," Southern Economic Assoc. Discussant, Southern Economic Assoc.
- 2021 Discussant, Virtual International Conference, Western Economic Assoc. International "Broadband Speeds in Fibered Markets: An Empirical Analysis," TPRC/48th Research Conference on Communication, Information and Internet Policy
- 2020 "The Effect of the FCC's High-Cost Program on the Extensive and Intensive Margin of Rural Broadband Deployment," Rural Digital Divide Roundtable, Nebraska College of Law
- 2019 "The Nature & Effects of the Emergence of Online Intermediated Work," The Future of Work Conference, Mercatus Center at George Mason University and Niskanen Center
- 2016 "Gigabit Fiber Networks & Speed Competition in the U.S.," The Institute for Humane Studies
- 2015 "Economic Growth & Income Inequality: A Public Choice Analysis," Southern Economic Assoc. "The Effects of Non-Neutral Network Management Policies on the Price and Diffusion of Broadband in the Developing World," Economics Scholars Program Conference for Undergraduate Research, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Workshops and Seminars

- 2022 Tools for Macroeconomics: Essentials, London School of Economics
- 2021 Rural Digital Divide Roundtable, Nebraska College of Law
- 2016 Summer Empirical Workshop, Center for Free Enterprise at West Virginia University
Advanced Austrian Seminar, Mercatus Center at George Mason University

Referee

Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University

Technical Skills Stata, R, Matlab, Python

References

Peter Newberry (Chair)
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John Munro Godfrey, Sr.
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Sara and Dan Boyd Professor
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Jeff Thirk
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