

Rachel Jarrold-Grapes

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Syracuse University
Department of Economics
110 Eggers Hall
Syracuse, NY 13244
rcjarrol@syr.edu
<https://www.racheljarroldgrapes.com/>

HOME CONTACT INFORMATION

8698 Carpenter Road
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
Phone: +1 (513) 328-0816

SYRACUSE PLACEMENT OFFICER

Gary Engelhardt
gengelh@syr.edu
+1 (315) 443-4598

DOCTORAL STUDIES

Syracuse University
PhD, Economics, Expected completion May 2022
DISSERTATION: “Three Essays on the Economics of Education”

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES

Gary Engelhardt (Primary Advisor)
Professor of Economics
Syracuse University
gengelh@syr.edu
+1 (315) 443-4598

Amy Ellen Schwartz
Professor of Economics
Syracuse University
amyschwartz@syr.edu
+1 (315) 443-9362

Maria Zhu
Assistant Professor of Economics
Syracuse University
mzhu33@syr.edu
+1 (315) 443-9043

Patten Priestley Mahler
Associate Professor of Economics
Centre College
patten.mahler@centre.edu
+1 (859) 238-6504

PRIOR EDUCATION

Centre College
BS in Mathematics and Economics & Finance

2017

CITIZENSHIP

United States

FIELDS

Primary Field: Public Economics
Secondary Fields: Labor Economics and Economics of Education

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Intermediate Microeconomics (undergrad, Syracuse University) Primary Instructor	2019
Public Economics (undergrad, Syracuse University) Teaching Assistant to Prof. Gary Engelhardt	2018
Intermediate Microeconomics (undergrad, Syracuse University) Teaching Assistant to Prof. Inge O'Connor	2017-18

	Introductory Macroeconomics (undergrad, Syracuse University) Private Tutor	2018
	Introduction to Mathematics in Society (undergrad, Centre College) Tutor for the Mathematics Department	2016-17
	Introduction to Statistics (undergrad, Centre College) Tutor for the Mathematics Department	2015-17
	Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus (Danville HS) Private Tutor	2015-17
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	Research Assistant to Prof. Gary Engelhardt Syracuse University	2018-21
AWARDS	Graduate Assistantship, Syracuse University	2017-21
CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS	University of Auckland Economics Seminar Syracuse University (Graduate Student Workshop) Syracuse University (Graduate Education & Social Policy Seminar) Association for Education Finance & Policy Annual Conference	2021 2021 2020;21 2017;19
CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS ATTENDED	Syracuse University Conference on Urban Economics Successfully Navigating Your Economics PhD Workshop Boston University's 3rd and 4th Year PhD Women's Workshop	2021 2020 2020
RESEARCH PAPERS	<p><u>“Marijuana Legalization and Educational Outcomes: Evidence from Oregon” (Job Market Paper)</u></p> <p>In the past decade, 19 states have legalized recreational marijuana for adults ages 21 and older. This paper examines the extent to which there are negative spillovers on underage utilization and educational outcomes. I use two complementary identification strategies that rely on plausibly exogenous spatial and temporal variation in access to marijuana in Oregon. In November of 2014, Oregon passed Measure 91, a referendum to legalize recreational marijuana. Unlike other legal states, Oregon allowed counties that voted against the legalization measure by at least 55% to opt out. Difference-in-differences estimates suggest that self-reported access to marijuana from the Oregon Student Wellness and Oregon Healthy Teens surveys did not change in counties above versus below the vote-share threshold after legalization. However, utilization increased, particularly for 11th-grade girls. Girls were 4 percentage points more likely to use marijuana, and used it 0.3 more times, in the past month after legalization. Additionally, using data on high schools from the Oregon Department of Education, I find that chronic absenteeism increased by 3 percentage points across all students, dropout rates increased by 1 percentage point for girls, and the proportion of girls proficient in ELA fell by over 3 percentage points. As an alternative method of identification that considers the within-county variation in access to marijuana, I estimate how the drive-time between high schools and pre-existing marijuana dispensaries affects outcomes. The results generally align with those from the standard difference-in-differences models, though I do find an additional statistically significant increase in self-reported access to marijuana and a decrease in math proficiency for girls.</p>	

“Pensions and Teacher Quality: Evidence from a Return-to-Work Policy in North Carolina” (with Patten Priestley Mahler, under review at the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*)

We examine one impact of pension incentives on teacher quality by analyzing a return-to-work policy in North Carolina that effectively removed the “push” incentives embedded in teacher pensions by allowing them to tap into their pension while teaching. Using administrative public-school data from the North Carolina Research Data Center, we estimate the impact of teachers who returned to work after retirement on student outcomes. We develop an instrumental variable identification strategy centered on the cancellation of the policy. We find small improvements in both reading and math achievement (2 percent of a standard deviation for the former and 3 percent of a standard deviation for the latter) for students in the same school who had one of these teachers in their grade during the policy relative to students who did not. We also find that RTW teachers are particularly helpful for students in the top quartile of the ability distribution in math and students in grades 4-6 in reading. Additionally, RTW teachers appear to be good at managing student behavior, which could help explain the positive effects on achievement. Overall, the results suggest that schools are losing effective teachers because of pension incentives and that return-to-work policies may be a way to retain them.

**RESEARCH
IN PROGRESS**

“Investment Subsidies and School Spending: Evidence from Colorado’s BEST Program”

When Colorado legalized recreational marijuana, a significant share of state marijuana sales tax revenue was earmarked for capital expenditures in Colorado public schools. Specifically, schools were offered state matching contributions on capital expenditures that significantly reduced the cost of investment. This paper examines the impact of a change in match rates combined with an unanticipated windfall in tax revenue in 2016, using school district data from Colorado from 2012-2019 to identify the demand for capital investment.

“Marijuana Legalization and Educational Outcomes: Evidence from Washington State”

When Washington legalized recreational marijuana, it put a quota on the number of recreational dispensaries allowed to operate. If the number of dispensary applications submitted within a city or county exceeded the local quota, then licenses were allocated using a lottery system. This generated plausibly exogenous variation in dispensary locations and thus access to marijuana. I use this variation to estimate the causal effects of legalization on underage marijuana use and educational outcomes.