

# TODD R. JONES

trj234@msstate.edu ◇ [toddrjones.com](http://toddrjones.com)

Mississippi State University, 312D McCool Hall  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

## PRIMARY POSITION

---

Assistant Professor of Economics, Mississippi State University 2020–

## AFFILIATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

---

IZA Research Fellow	2025–
Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago	2024–
CESifo Research Network Affiliate	2023–
EdWorkingPapers Invited Contributor	2020–
IZA Research Affiliate	2021–2025
Guest Researcher, CESifo, Center for the Economics of Education	1/2023
Postdoc, Georgia Policy Labs, Georgia State University	2018–2020

## EDUCATION

---

Ph.D., Economics, Cornell University	2018
M.A., Economics, Cornell University	2016
M.S., Statistics, Utah State University	2012
B.A., Economics, Utah State University, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	2011
Minors: Mathematics, Chinese	
Chinese Language, Shanghai JiaoTong University, China	2007

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Applied Microeconomics, Economics of Education, Time Use, Economics of the Family, Labor Economics, Economics of Crime, Science of Science

## WORKING PAPERS

---

1. School and Crime (with Ezra Karger). *Reject and resubmit, AEJ: Economic Policy.*
2. Cheaper by the Dozen: Parental Time Use and Returns to Scale in Raising Children (with Ezra Karger and Valerie Michelman).
3. Social Substitution?: Time Use Responses to Increased Workplace Isolation (with Benjamin Cowan). *Submitted.*
4. Paying for Prestige: Compensating Differentials in Faculty Job Choice (with Alex Bell). Draft available upon request.

## PUBLICATIONS

---

5. First Generation College Students and Peer Effects. *Labour Economics* (2025), 102768. (Joint with Michael Kofoed.)
6. The Academic Origins of Economics Faculty. *Journal of Economic Education* (2024), 55(4), 434-454. (Joint with Arielle Sloan.)

7. Parental and Student Time Use Around the Academic Year. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* (2024), 224: 66-110. (Joint with Benjamin Cowan and Jeffrey Swigert.)
8. Changes in Parental Gender Preference in the United States: Evidence from 1850-2019. *Journal of Population Economics* (2023), 36: 3057–3070. (Joint with Matthew Millington and Joseph Price.)
9. The Graduate School Origins of Finance Faculty. *Journal of Empirical Finance* (2023), 71:88-103. (Joint with Haoyang Xiong)
10. The Effects of Financial Aid Loss on Student Persistence and Graduation: A Multi-Dimensional Regression Discontinuity Approach. *Education Finance and Policy* (2022), 17(2): 206-231. (Joint with Daniel Kreisman, Ross Rubenstein, Cynthia Searcy, and Rachana Bhatt.)
11. Maxed Out: The Human Capital Effects of Larger Student Loan Limits. *Journal of Human Resources* (2021), 56 (4): 1113-1140. (Joint with Jeffrey Denning.)
12. College Credit on the Table? Advanced Placement Course and Exam Taking. *Economics of Education Review* (2021), 84: 102-155. (Joint with Ishtiaque Fazlul and Jonathan Smith.)
13. Do Peers Influence Occupational Preferences? Evidence from Randomly-Assigned Peer Groups at West Point. *Journal of Public Economics* (2020), 184: 104-154. (Joint with Michael Kofoed.)
14. Are High-Quality PhD Programs at Universities Associated with More Undergraduate Students Pursuing PhD Study? *Education Economics* (2019), 27(5):451-471. (Joint with Ronald Ehrenberg.)
15. Information and the Beauty Premium in Political Elections. *Contemporary Economic Policy* (2017), 35: 677-683. (Joint with Joseph Price.)
16. SigTree: A Microbial Community Analysis Tool to Identify and Visualize Significantly Responsive Branches in a Phylogenetic Tree. *Computational and Structural Biotechnology Journal* (2017), 15:372-378. (Joint with John Stevens, Michael Lefevre, Balasubramanian Ganesan, and Bart Weimer.)

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

---

17. Conferences and Coauthors (with Ezra Karger).
18. The Morphology of Crime (with Benjamin Cowan and Ezra Karger).
19. Datasets in Applied Microeconomics.
20. The Effects of School and Non-school Resources on Student Outcomes (with Ezra Karger and Sarah Komisarow).
21. Outcomes of Ph.D. Economists (with Ezra Karger).

## BOOK

---

22. Quick Stata Tips. This is a self-published book containing 140 Stata tips.

## OTHER WRITING

---

23. Moms Lose Significant Sleep and Free Time During Kids' School Year, New Study Finds. *The Conversation*, 2023. (Joint with Benjamin Cowan and Jeffrey Swigert.) Also appears in *Fortune* and *PBS*.
24. Taking Advanced Placement Courses but Not the Exam. *Metro Atlanta Policy Lab for Education, Georgia Policy Labs*, 2020. (Joint with Ishtiaque Fazlul and Jonathan Smith.)
25. Post-Secondary Financial Aid Foundational Report: 2013-14 to 2018-19. *Child & Family Policy Lab, Georgia Policy Labs*, 2020.

## **PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING SCHEDULED)**

---

**2026:** AEA Meeting (by coauthor), Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas **2025:** NBER Summer Institute GITE (by coauthor), Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Temple University (by coauthor) **2024:** ASSA Meetings (SGE), University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, University of Memphis, University of Delaware (by coauthor), Mississippi State University **2023:** ifo Center for the Economics of Education, AEFP Meetings, APPAM Meetings, GLO-JOPE 2023 Global Conference (by coauthor) **2022:** AEFP Meetings, Atlanta Fed Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop, Mississippi State University, NBER Spring Education Meeting, NBER Spring Children's Meeting, University of Connecticut, University of South Carolina, APPAM Meetings (by coauthor), Southerns Meetings, University of Mississippi (canceled - sickness) **2021:** Mississippi State University Ag Econ, AEFP Meetings, Southerns Meetings **2020:** Mississippi State University, Southern Utah University, Ryerson University, San Diego State University, AEFP Meetings (two presentations by coauthors), Westerns Meetings (by coauthor), Georgia Policy Labs CFPL Equitable Access Webinar (panelist), APPAM Meetings (poster; and presentation by coauthor), Southerns Meetings **2019:** AEFP Meetings, Georgia State University Brownbag, European Association of Labour Economists Annual Conference (by coauthor), Georgia State University Ph.D. Seminar **2018:** Ohio State University, Georgia State University MAPLE **2017:** Cornell University **2016:** AEFP Meetings, Midwestern Economic Association/SOLE, Southerns Meetings (by coauthor) **2015:** Cornell University Economics of Education Meeting, Cornell University Labor Work in Progress Seminar, Southerns Meetings **2014:** Cornell University Economics of Education Meeting, Brigham Young University Graduate Student Conference, Utah State University, Cornell University Economics of Education Meeting

## **TEACHING**

---

### **Instructor (including scheduled):**

Principles of Microeconomics, Mississippi State University

S2021, F2021 (x2), S2022, F2022 (x2), S2023, F2023 (x2), F2024 (x2), S2025, F2025 (x2), S2026

Intermediate Microeconomics, Mississippi State University

F2020 (x2), S2021, S2022, S2023, S2024 (x2), S2025, S2026

Data Analytics Internship in Athletics, Mississippi State University

S2023

### **Teaching Assistant:**

Economic Analysis of the University, Cornell University, Ron Ehrenberg

F2014, F2016, F17

Introductory Microeconomics, Cornell University, Jennifer Wissink

F2013, S2014

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

---

### **Advising:**

Ph.D. Committee Member, Haoyang Xiong, Mississippi State University

2022

Initial Placement: Assistant Professor of Finance, Montana State University

### **Department:**

Seminar Series Co-Organizer, Mississippi State University

2022-

Applied Economics Research Group, Founder and Organizer, Mississippi State University

2021-

Journal Ranking Committee, Mississippi State University

2022-2023, 2024

Hiring Committee, Mississippi State University

2020-21, 2022, 2025

Interview Committee, Mississippi State University

2020-21, 2025

### **Referee:**

Journal of Labor Economics (2), Journal of Human Resources (2), Journal of Public Economics, Economics of Education Review (12), Education Finance and Policy (9), Journal of Population Economics,

Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (2), Economic Inquiry (2), Journal of Empirical Finance, ILR Review, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, Review of Economics of the Household (2), Southern Economic Journal (3), Contemporary Economic Policy (3), Journal of Economic Education (3)

**Conference Session Chair:**

APPAM	2023
AEFP	2021, 2022
Southerns Meetings	2021

**Conference Discussant:**

Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop	2024
APPAM	2023
Southerns Meetings	2015, 2018 (x2), 2021 (x2), 2022
Midwestern Meetings	2016

**Helping Candidates Prepare for Job Market:**

Association for Mentoring & Inclusion in Economics	2021–2023, 2025
--	-----------------

---

## MEDIA

**Podcasts:** The Atlantic's [Good on Paper podcast](#) (Coauthor interviewed, September 24, 2024).

**Magazine and Newspaper Interviews and References:** [National Geographic](#) (August 28, 2025). [Chattanooga Times Free Press](#) (December 12, 2024). [Slate](#) (May 10, 2023). [KHN](#) (March 22, 2021).

**TV/Video Interviews:** WTVA Mississippi (February 11, 2022; February 25, 2022; April 29, 2022); Mississippi State University College of Business Dividends Show (March 2021).

**Other:** My Stata tips were featured in [Stata News 37-3](#). My [graph was used](#) in the 2024 State of the City address by the Mayor of Chattanooga. My [paper](#) was featured in FutureEd.

---

## AWARDS

Price Theory Summer Camp, The Becker Friedman Institute, University of Chicago	2016
The Ernest Liu Family Outstanding Teaching Award, Field of Economics, Cornell University	2014
Sage Fellowship, Field of Economics, Cornell University	2012-13
Vice President For Research Fellowship, School of Graduate Studies, Utah State University	2011-12
National Advisory Board Scholarship, School of Business, Utah State University	2008-09, 2010-11
Seely-Hinckley Scholarship, School of Business, Utah State University	2009-10
Presidential Scholarship, Utah State University	2004-05, 2008-10
Eagle Scout Award	2002

---

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistant:**

Cornell: Ron Ehrenberg	Summer 14, Spring 15-Summer 16, Summer 18
Cornell: Nick Sanders	Spring-Summer 2017

**Professional:**

Statistics Intern, Autoliv, Ogden, UT	Summer 2011
Statistics Intern, National Agricultural Statistical Service, Salt Lake City, Utah	Summer 2010

---

## PROGRAMMING

Stata, R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

Developed *SigTree*, an R package (with John Stevens), available at [CRAN](#)

## OTHER

---

Citizenship: USA

Languages: Swedish, Chinese (Basic)

Latter-day Saint Student Association, Advisor, Mississippi State University

2022–

---

Last updated: January 6, 2026