

BOSTON COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
8 27 18

ECON3363  
Fall 2018  
Stokes 301N  
T Th 9:00 - 10:15 am

Joseph F. Quinn  
385E Maloney Hall  
[joseph.quinn@bc.edu](mailto:joseph.quinn@bc.edu), x2-2022  
Office hours: *usually* M W 4:30 - 5:15  
and by appointment

MICROECONOMIC PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES  
(or, if we're so smart, why is no one listening to us?)

This is a seminar on the economic analysis of current public policy issues. I have assigned reading on four topics and you each will have the opportunity to prepare, present and revise papers on a micro public policy topic of your choice. The course is divided into two parts.

After four introductory sessions (Aug. 28 - Sept. 6), during which time you will pick a paper topic, we will then spend 2 days on each of four topics I have chosen (Sept. 11 - Oct. 16). These readings will be available on the course Canvas site and many have direct links to the article. We will have our only exam on the material in topics I - IV on Thursday, Oct. 25.

Also during the first half of the course, you will write the first draft (usually 10-15 pages) of a paper on a microeconomic policy topic of your choice. This draft is due on Tuesday Oct. 23. We will then run the second half of the course like a professional economics conference. We will all read each classmate's first draft. Each student will serve as the primary discussant for one classmate's draft (to be assigned) and prepare a detailed critique (3-5 pages) for that author (with a copy for me), due on Tuesday Oct. 30. All other students will write and hand in their (usually less detailed) comments for the two authors on each presentation day, with copies for each of the day's authors and for me.

During each presentation session (starting Tuesday Oct. 30), two students will present their papers (10 minutes maximum), their discussants will present their comments, constructive critiques and helpful suggestions (5 minutes maximum), and the class and I, having read the 2 papers, will do the same (20 minutes). With these inputs and my detailed comments on your first draft, you will have an opportunity to revise and rewrite your paper, and hand in a final draft (3 copies, please; 2 for me and 1 for your discussant) on either Thursday November 29 or Tuesday Dec. 11, depending on the date of your class presentation - see below.

COURSE COMPONENTS:

1. Assigned readings below, available via web links and on Canvas.
2. Preparation and presentation of a paper on a public policy topic of your choice.
3. At least one (and preferably more than one) meeting with your Writing Fellow (see below).
4. Written comments on and class presentation, as official discussant, on one classmate's paper.
5. Written comments and class participation all other classmates' papers.
6. Attendance and active participation in class.
7. Exam on Thursday Oct. 25.

GRADING POLICY:

The approximate weights on your final grade are:

(15%) Class participation and your discussant's comments

(35%) Exam

(50%) Paper

    First draft (15%)

    Final draft (35%)

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

The course prerequisite is Microeconomic Theory (ECON2201 or ECON2203). This public policy course is designed for students with a good grasp of micro theory. If you have doubts about whether your economics background is appropriate for the course, please consult with me.

This course deals with externalities. In fact, it is a case study of externalities! Because of the importance of your two class presentations and your class participation, what your classmates learn will depend in part on your efforts. This course is designed for students willing to contribute significantly to this joint enterprise.

WRITING FELLOWS:

As noted above, you will have the opportunity to write and re-write a paper on a microeconomic public policy topic of your choice. We are partnering with the Boston College Writing Fellows Program, a writing initiative on campus. You will meet at least once (and preferably more than once) one-on-one with our Writing Fellow, a graduate student trained to help you improve your writing. Handing in a first draft on time (Thursday October 25) and meeting with your assigned Writing Fellow are required components of this course and a great way for you to improve the quality of your final draft.

EMAILS FROM ME (and from others):

Check your **BC email address** often for announcements from me or make sure that emails are forwarded from your BC email account (which I will use) to whatever account you use.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

The academic enterprise at Boston College assumes **academic integrity**, which in this course means that all the work on your exam and on your paper is your own, and that you appropriately reference the work of others in your paper. Err on the side of citation! When in doubt, cite! It's costless. Violations of academic integrity must be reported to your class dean and then reviewed by the College of Arts and Sciences Academic Integrity Committee. Consequences can be very serious. Please review university policy and procedures at: <http://www.bc.edu/integrity>

If you have any questions about academic integrity now or as the semester progresses, please consult with me.

## SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION (August 28 – September 6)

Overview of the course (August 28)

Review of Microeconomic Theory and Econometrics (August 30 – September 6)

1. Richard Tresch, "The Fundamental Theorems of Welfare Economics,"  
Chapter 3 in *Public Sector Economics*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2008: **39-53**  
(PDF on Canvas)
2. David Sjoquist, Larry Schroder and Paula Stephen, "Interpreting Linear Regression Analysis:  
A Heuristic Approach," General Learning Press, 1974: 1-17 (PDF on Canvas)  
  
or skim the introductory chapters on simple and multiple regression  
in any introductory statistics or econometrics text.
3. And start reading the Common Property Resource readings below; there are many of them!!

**YOUR PAPER TOPIC IS DUE on Tuesday, September 11** (or earlier, for prior feedback!)

-a 1-2 page description of the topic

- what is the public policy issue?
- what are the policy options?
- why is it interesting?

**-include several bibliographic references**, preferably some recent ones in **economics**  
**or public policy journals**, which in turn will have additional references you can consult

**NOTE: The first draft** (typically 10-15 pp.) **of this paper is due only 6 weeks later,**  
**on Tuesday October 23** so get to work on it!

## ASSIGNED TOPICS (9/11 - 10/16)

I. Common Property Resources, with emphasis on fish and water (September 11, 13)

1. SKIM these sad tales, from land, air and sea! Why did/does this happen?

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "The Time Line of the American Bison"

<https://www.fws.gov/bisonrange/timeline.htm> *How were 30 to 60 million bison reduced to 325!*

*And, as part of your continuing education, what's the difference between a buffalo and a bison?*

*"Give me a home .... where the buffalo roam" NO, there aren't any here!!*

<http://www.livescience.com/32115-bison-vs-buffalo-whats-the-difference.html>

John Steele Gordon, Book Review of "*A Feathered River Across the Sky*"

by Joel Greenberg, *Wall Street Journal*, 1/18/14, p. C9. (PDF on Canvas)

*An even sadder tale - bad news in the air. They are all gone! Extinct!*

*When did the last passenger pigeon die? What was her name? Named after whom?*

Andrew Jacobs, "China's Appetite Pushes Fisheries to the Brink," *New York Times*, 4/30/17

*Yet another sad tale, from the sea.*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/30/world/asia/chinas-appetite-pushes-fisheries-to-the-brink.html>

2. David Abel, "A milestone in the war over the true state of cod," *Boston Globe*, April 3, 2017.  
*Who is right about the true state of cod, government experts or fishermen?*  
<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/04/02/milestone-war-over-true-state-cod/OdTWf12sw9z3VoZTwKaWjP/story.html>
3. Jon Krakauer, "A fishing frenzy strikes on Sitka when herring run"  
*Smithsonian Magazine*, October 1986, pp. 97-108 (PDF on Canvas)  
*Skim this amusing (???) article on how NOT to regulate a common property resource!*  
*How long did the Sitka fishing season last?*
4. Jonathan Adler and Nathaniel Steward, "Learning How to Fish," *Regulation*, Spring 2014: 46-51.  
*How does the catch share system work? How does a common property resource become a privately owned resource? Will this drive The Deadliest Catch off the Discovery Channel?*  
<http://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/serials/files/regulation/2014/4/regulation-v37n1-1.pdf>
5. Dennis Dimmick, "If You Think the Water Crisis Can't Get Worse, Wait Until the Aquifers are Drained" *National Geographic*, 8/21/14.  
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/08/140819-groundwater-california-drought-aquifers-hidden-crisis/>
6. Yusuke Kuwayama, "Groundwater Markets: Managing a Critical, Hidden Resource" *Resources*, 186, 2014, pp. 18-24. *(Perhaps the most valuable natural resource of all - water!)*  
[http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-Resources-186\\_Feature-Kuwayama.pdf](http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-Resources-186_Feature-Kuwayama.pdf)
7. Peter Culp, Robert Glennon (a BC English major!!) and Gary Libecap, *Shopping for Water: How the Market Can Mitigate Water Shortages in the American West*, The Hamilton Project, Policy Brief 2014-05. SKIM this for the highlights. *(How might we improve water allocation in the American West, to get scarce water to its most productive uses??)*  
[http://www.hamiltonproject.org/assets/files/how\\_the\\_market\\_can\\_mitigate\\_water\\_shortage\\_in\\_west\\_brief.pdf](http://www.hamiltonproject.org/assets/files/how_the_market_can_mitigate_water_shortage_in_west_brief.pdf)

## II. Cash vs. In-kind Benefits (September 18, 20)

*Which should society prefer in helping those in need: cash or in-kind benefits? Why?*

1. Harvey Rosen and Ted Gayer, "Expenditure Incidence" in *Public Finance*, New York: McGraw Hill, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010: pp. 268-273. (PDF on Canvas)  
*Here is the simple microeconomic theory of the cash vs. in-kind issue.*  
*Why is cash seen as better than in-kind benefits by many (most?) economists?*
2. Janet Currie, "Introduction" in *The Invisible Safety Net*, Princeton University Press, 2006, pp. 1-10. (PDF on Canvas) *If cash is better, why does Currie (and society) prefer these in-kind benefits?*

NOTE: *If you are interested in other important in-kind benefits, Currie also has good chapters on wage subsidies (Ch. 1), public health insurance (2), food subsidies (3), housing subsidies (4) and child care subsidies (5). These chapters, although not assigned, are also on Canvas.*

3. Congressional Budget Office, "Growth in Means-Tested Programs and Tax Credits for Low-Income Households" February 2013: pp. 1-7 and Figures 3, 4, 5  
*What has happened to expenditure on mean-tested programs over time? Which of these programs provide in-kind assistance and which provide cash? Why have they increased so dramatically over time, especially after 2008? Why are Social Security and Medicare (both huge!!) excluded?*  
<http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/43934-Means-TestedPrograms.pdf>
4. Diane Schanzenbach, Lauren Bauer and Greg Nantz, "Twelve Facts about Food Insecurity and SNAP" The Hamilton Project, April 2016.  
*What % of US children are food-insecure? What programs are most effective in reducing poverty?*  
[http://www.hamiltonproject.org/assets/files/twelve\\_facts\\_about\\_food\\_insecurity\\_and\\_snap.pdf](http://www.hamiltonproject.org/assets/files/twelve_facts_about_food_insecurity_and_snap.pdf)
5. Center for Global Development, *Doing Cash Differently: How cash transfers can transform humanitarian aid*. September 2015, pp. 6-11, 23-28 and skim the rest.  
<http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/HLP-Humanitarian-Cash-Transfers-Report.pdf>  
  
*The Economist*, "Hard-nosed compassion" 6/26/15  
<http://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21666232-cash-transfers-rather-handouts-kind-would-help-aid-refugees-go>  
*What are the advantages of using cash in international aid for the poor?*
6. Kathleen Short, *The Supplementary Poverty Measure: 2014*, Current Population Report, P60-254, September 2015, pp. 1-6.  
*How do traditional poverty statistics treat in-kind benefits and taxes? How does the new supplementary poverty measure differ from the traditional one? How much difference does the new measure make in the overall poverty rate? In the poverty rates of particular age groups?*  
<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p60-254.pdf>

### III. The Minimum Wage and the Earned Income Tax Credit (September 25, 27)

*What are the goals of the minimum wage?*

*How large are the dis-employment effects of the minimum wage and on whom do they fall?*

*Is the minimum wage an effective anti-poverty tool? Is the EITC more effective?*

For a neat graphic on the minimum wage by state, see: <http://www.epi.org/minimum-wage-tracker>

*Which state has the highest minimum wage in New England?*

*What is the minimum wage for those who also earn tips in Massachusetts? In California?*

1. David Cooper, "Raising the minimum wage to \$15 by 2024 would lift wages for 41 million American workers," Economic Policy Institute, April 26, 2017. *Skim this* for the highlights. <http://www.epi.org/files/pdf/125047.pdf>

*This is the pro-minimum wage view. Who (Whom?) does Cooper say would benefit?*

Noam Scheiber, "Raising Floor for Minimum Wage Pushes Economy Into the Unknown"

*The New York Times*, 7/26/15 <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/27/business/economy/scale-of-minimum-wage-rise-has-experts-guessing-at-effect.html>

*What can evidence on past small changes in the MW tell us about the impacts of a large change?*

2. David Card and Alan Krueger (1995), "Introduction and Overview" in *Myth and Measurement*, Princeton University Press, pp. 1-13. (PDF on Canvas)  
*A good overview of minimum wage issues.*
3. Congressional Budget Office, "The Effects of a Minimum-Wage Increase on Employment and Family Income" February 2014, pp. 1-17.  
*Who gains and who loses from a minimum wage increase? How many are there in each category?* <http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/44995-MinimumWage.pdf>
4. Jared Bernstein and Heidi Shierholz (2014), "The Minimum Wage: A Crucial Labor Standard That Is Well Targeted to Low- and Moderate-Income Households" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 33(4), pp. 1036-1043. Log into your BC AGORA library account to access: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pam.21791/epdf>  
*Why do these authors support the minimum wage?*

Joseph Sabia (2014), "Minimum Wages: An Antiquate and Ineffective Policy Tool"

*Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 33(4), pp. 1028-1036.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pam.21796/epdf>

*Why does this author oppose the minimum wage?*

5. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Policy Basics: The Earned Income Tax Credit" January 2016 *Play with the neat graphic on the value of the EITC to various families.* <http://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/policy-basics-the-earned-income-tax-credit>

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "EITC and Child Tax Credit Promote Work, Reduce Poverty, and Support Children's Development, Research Finds" October 2015

*A very pro-EITC analysis! Are all of these benefits plausible?*

<http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/6-26-12tax.pdf>

**NOTE: No class on October 2 (fall break), 4 and 9 – work on your paper, due October 23!**

IV. Human Spare Parts (October 11, 16)

*How can we increase the supply of kidneys for those who will die without a new one?*

*What do you think is the primary objection to a market in human spare parts, like kidneys?*

1. Phillip Cook and Kimberly Krawiec, “A Primer on Kidney Transplantation: Anatomy of the Shortage,” *Law & Contemporary Problems*, 2014, 77(3): 1-24.  
<https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4692&context=lcp>  
*Houston, We’ve got a problem! How large is the kidney shortage? Why is there a shortage?*
2. Phillip Cook and Kimberly Krawiec, “If We Pay Football Players, Why Not Kidney Donors?” *Regulation*, Spring 2018, 41(1): 12-17.  
<https://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/serials/files/regulation/2018/3/regulation-v41n1-4.pdf>  
*Should we pay kidney donors? Why? Why not? Is the football player analogy a good one?*
3. P. J. Held et al., “A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Government Compensation of Kidney Donors,” *American Journal of Transplantation* March 2016, 16(3), pp. 877-885.  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5057320/>  
*Why might to government want to compensate kidney donors?*
4. Michael Sandell, “Markets, Morals and Civic Life,” *Bulletin of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, Summer 2005: 6-10.  
*What should **not** be for sale?*  
<http://www.amacad.org/publications/bulletin/Summer2005/MarketsMoralsCivitLife.pdf>
5. Alvin Roth, “Repugnance as a Constraint on Markets,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21(3), Summer 2007: 37-58.  
*We ignore repugnance at our peril!*  
<http://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.21.3.37>

And, for fun, see the 4 minute video: “The Economics of Hope: Kidney Exchanges” featuring two of our own Boston College economics professors, Tayfun Somnez and Utku Unver, whose work has been very influential in improving kidney exchanges.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZUfcvBF5K4>

and a 15 minute talk by Nobel Prize winning economist Alvin Roth on “The Economic Marketplace of the Kidney Transplant Exchange”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9j-MmYir2nE>

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

PAPER TOPICS DUE - **Tuesday, September 11**

FIRST DRAFT OF PAPER DUE

(on Canvas and a hard copy for me) - **Tuesday October 23**

MIDTERM EXAM – **Thursday October 25**

PRIMARY DISCUSSANTS' COMMENTS DUE for the paper you are assigned

(hard copies to your author and to me) - **Tuesday, October 30**

PAPER PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS – starting **Tuesday October 30**

-2 papers presented and discussed each class

**FINAL DRAFT OF PAPER DUE** (3 copies: 2 for me and 1 for your discussant)

**-for those presenting on or before November 15, paper due on Thursday November 29**

**-for those presenting on or after November 27, paper due Tuesday December 11**

V. EPILOGUE (Tuesday December 4)

1. Thomas Schelling, "Economic Reasoning and the Ethics of Policy,"  
in *Choice and Consequence: Perspectives of an Errant Economist*,  
Harvard University Press, 1984, pp. 1-26.

[http://www.nationalaffairs.com/doclib/20080708\\_1981633economicreasoningandethicsofpolicythomascschelling.pdf](http://www.nationalaffairs.com/doclib/20080708_1981633economicreasoningandethicsofpolicythomascschelling.pdf)

From which I will argue that poor towns *should have* inferior public schools compared to rich communities – and if that won't get you thrown out of cocktail parties, nothing will!!

**Thursday December 6: Class dinner at my house, near the Newton campus**



PAPER TOPIC

Your paper topic is up to you, although I may discourage some topics, such as topics we are studying above. It should address a specific *microeconomic* policy issue and include a summary of the controversy, its importance, as well as the economic and other arguments that have been presented on both (or more!) sides of the issue. In this paper, you should present, analyze and critique these arguments, explain why these researchers differ in their conclusions and conclude with your opinions and recommendations.

For example, do the opponents disagree over *philosophical theories* (e.g., what is the appropriate role of government?), over *facts* (e.g., what are the impacts of these policies? who is affected, and how?), over *predictions* (e.g., what would happen if we do X?) or over *value judgments* (e.g., two researchers might agree that Y (something good) and Z (something bad) will happen if we do X, but disagree on whether on net we would be better or worse off). Most papers conclude with the author's (your!) conclusions and suggestions for policy reform. Given what you now know, what would you propose and why? Or, what do we not yet know that is essential to the policy decision?

It is important to choose a topic on which you can find a rich literature **in economic and policy journals** - authors who have studied your topic and, ideally, who disagree – not just in newspapers and magazines, which typically do not have sufficient depth. Some potential topics and references that I have noted over the years are below. In addition, dozens of additional topics can be found in any daily newspaper or in economics or public policy journals such as those listed below. Browse through some recent issues of these; most are available on the shelf and on line through our library.

- AE Applied Economics (HB1.A665)
- AEJAE American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (on line)
- AEJEP American Economic Journal: Economic Policy (on line)
  
- CATO Cato Journal (H1.C34)
- CEP Contemporary Economic Policy (HD72.C66)
  
- EE Ecological Economics (on line)
- EPR Economic Policy Review (HC101.F426)
  
- IJSF International Journal of Sport Finance (on line)
- ILRR Industrial and Labor Relations Review (HD4802.I53)
- IRLE International Review of Law and Economics (at the BC Law School Library)
  
- JAMA Journal of the American Medical Association (offsite)
- JCS Journal of Contemporary Studies (HJ2381.F67)
- JDI Journal of Drug Issues (HV5800.J68)
- JEL Journal of Economic Literature (a very useful quarterly index of articles in Economics periodicals, arranged by topic) (HB1.J6)

JEP Journal of Economic Perspectives (HB1.J63)  
JHPPL Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law (RA395.A3J68)  
JLE Journal of Law and Economics (HB73.J68X and BC Law School Library)  
JLEO Journal of Law, Economics and Organization (K10.O8734)  
JLS Journal of Legal Studies (BC Law School library)  
JPAM Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (H97.J68)  
JPE Journal of Public Economics (HJ101.J68)  
JPHP Journal of Public Health Policy (RA421.J92)  
JSE Journal of Sports Economics (GV561.J68)  
JTEP Journal of Transportation Economics and Policy (HE1.J597)

LE Land Economics (HB1.J65)  
LCP Law and Contemporary Problems (K12.A9)

PI Public Interest (H1.P86 and Social Work Library)  
PS Policy Sciences (H1.P7)  
PSJ Policy Studies Journal (H1.P72)  
PSR Policy Studies Review (H1.P729)

R Regulation (BC Law School Library)  
RFF Resources for the Future (<http://www.rff.org/research/resources-magazine>)  
RIO Review of Industrial Organization (on line)  
RLE Research in Law and Economics (K18.E835)  
RSF RSF (Russell Sage Foundation) Journal (on line)

TR Transportation Research (HE192.T68)

YJR Yale Journal on Regulation (K29.A37)

WSJ Wall Street Journal (through O'Neill Library)

SOME POSSIBLE TOPICS that I have accumulated over many years.

But no need to be constrained by these.

Find something that fascinates you!

Gas Prices and Motor Vehicle Fatalities (JPAM, Summer 04)

Public Policies Related to Drunk Driving (JLS 1/84, 1/86; R 3/87; 87/2; JLE 4/88; JHPPL Winter 88, Winter 89; JPAM, Winter 01, Spring 03, Winter 06, Winter 08)  
Seatbelt Use and Traffic Fatalities (PS 5/91; JPAM, Summer 06)

Automobile Safety Regulation (JPAM Fall 89 (book review); AER 84; YJR Fall 85, Spring 86, Spring 87; R 9/86; RLE 83; PS 91)

Highway Speed Limit and Auto Safety (JPAM Winter 88; CEP, 10/91)

Motorcycle Helmet Regulation (JPAM Winter 84 (fn. 34); PS 10/86)

Bicycle Helmet Legislation (JPAM Summer 04)

The Effect of Mandatory Seat Belt Laws on Seat Belt Use (JPAM Winter 14)

Fuel Economy Standards (QLE 11/83; JLE 4/89; JEP Spring 92)

Automobile Pollution Control (JPAM Fall 88 and Summer 91)

Ethanol as a Gas Substitute (JPAM Summer 92; WJS 11 28 07; R Fall 07)

Automobiles, Externalities and Policies (JEL June 07)

Gasoline Content Regulations in California (AER, October 11)

Texting Bans and Auto Fatalities (AEJAE Apr 13)

Life and Death in the Fast Lane: Police Enforcement and Traffic Fatalities (AEJEP May 14)

Traffic Congestion and Infant Health: Evidence from EZ-Pass (AEJAE Jan 11)

Gasoline Taxes and Consumer Behavior (AEJEP Nov 14 and Feb 15)

Fuel Economy Standards and Auto Safety (AEJAE July 13)

Do Traffic Tickets Reduce Motor Vehicle Accidents (JPAM Winter 15)

Climate Change and Auto Accidents (RFF Winter 16)

Daylight Saving Time and Fatal Vehicle Crashes (AEJAE Apr 16)

Police Enforcement and Traffic Fatalities (AEJ:EP May 14)

Nighttime Driving Restrictions and Teenage Criminal Activity (JPAM Spring 16)

Life After Lead: Effects of Early Interventions for Children Exposed to Lead (AEJAE Jul 18)

The Economics of Tobacco and Tobacco Control (National Cancer Institute)

Cigarette Regulation (JPAM, Fall 04; R Winter 06, Spring 07)

Cigarette Advertising (JHPPL Fall 86)

Impact of Smoking Bans on Hospitalization and Mortality (JPAM Winter '10)

Government Regulation and Teenage Smoking (JLE 12/81)

Drunk Driving after the Passage of Smoking Bans in Bars (JPE June 2008)

Smoking Bans (Regulation, Winter 06-07, AEJEP Aug 11)

Taxes and Youth Smoking (JPE Feb 02)

The Effects of Bans and Taxes on Secondary Smoke (AEJAE Jan 10)

The Effects of Medical Marijuana Laws on Marijuana Use (JPAM Winter 15)

Regulating E-cigarettes (JPAM Spring 16; JAMA Jan 8, 2014)

Public Health Conseq. of E-Cigarettes (National Acad. of Science 2018: <http://nap.edu/24952>)

Does Early Exposure to Cigarette Smoke Harm Childhood Welfare? (AEJAE Oct 16)

The Effects of Tobacco Control Policies on Tobacco Products... (AEJEP Nov 16)

Do Minimum Legal Tobacco Purchase Age Laws Work? (CEP Jul 16)

Externalities in Alcohol and Smoking Treatment Programs (AEJEP Nov 17)

  

Liberalization of Marijuana Laws (JPAM Winter 14)

  

Drinking and the Price of Alcohol (CEP 7/93, 10/93, 10/96; CATO Fall 95)

Alcohol Consumptions and Mortality (AE 1/09)

Alcohol Advertising (R Summer 05)

Alcohol Use and Youth Suicide (JPAM, Fall 04)

Alcohol, Drugs and Violent Crime (IRLE 05)

Minimum Legal Drinking Age and Public Health (JEP Spring 11)

Sunday Alcohol Sales Bans and Auto Fatalities (JPAM Fall 11)

The Effect of Alcohol Consumption on Mortality (AEJAE Jan 09)

  

Minimum Wages and Youth Crimes (JLE 10/87)

Economic Effects of a Citywide Minimum Wage (ILRR 07)

The Impact of Large Container Beer Purchases on ... Fatal Vehicle Accidents (CEP Jul 15)

Obesity (JEL, 12/08; NBER Reporter, 2008 Nos. 3 and 4; New Yorker 7/20/09)  
<http://www.urban.org/publications/411926.html> )

Household Income and Young Adult Obesity (AEJAE Apr 13)

Who Pays for Obesity (JEP Winter 11)

Sugar-Sweetened Beverages and Obesity (JPAM Summer 11)

Child Health and Future Outcomes (JEL Mar 09)

The Effect of Fast Food Restaurants on Obesity (AEJEP Aug 10; AEJAE Jan 11)

Calorie Posting in Chain Restaurants (AEJEP Feb 11)

Should Soft Drinks be Taxed More Heavily? (Choice magazine, Oct 11; JPAM Summer 11)

Junk Food and Childhood Obesity (JPAM Spring 12)

The Impact of Soda Sales Taxes on Consumption (CEP Oct 15)

Occupational Licensing Reform (JEP Summer '14 – Rec. for Further Reading, R Winter 17-18

Cato, Fall 16 Winter 16 and Carpenter et al. *License to Work* (2012) )

Licensing of Occupations (R Fall 06)

License Restrictions and the Cost of Eyeglasses (JLE 4/86)

Public Regulation of Paraprofessionals (JPAM Winter 82)

Occupation Licensure of Nurses (PS 4/87)

Airline Deregulation (JLE 4/86, 4/87; JPAM 83; YJR 84; AER 11/84  
 JLE 4/87 & 4/88; R 9/86, Fall 90 & Summer '91; QJE 11/91)

Airline Deregulation and Safety (JEP, Spring 92)

The Market for Blood (JEP Spring 14)

Incentives and Blood Donations (AEJEP Feb 12)

Blood Banks (JLE '74, 78, 4/80; R 9/86; JHPPL Spring '88)

Effects of FTC Regulation of Advertising (JLE 12/81)

Economics of Prescription Drug Advertising (JLE 4/81; R 9/86)

Product Safety Regulation (JLE 10/85; R 88/1)

FDA and Drug Regulation (PR October '07; R Winter '06)

Who Owns the Seas? (R 9/81; 11/81; JCS Spring 83; LCP Spring 83; PSR 11/86; Book: *Law of the Sea: U.S. Policy Dilemma*)

The Davis Bacon Act (JLE 10/83)

Bankruptcy (JLE 10/84, 4/86; LCP Spring 87; R Winter 05, Fall 06)

Allocation of Broadcast Frequencies (JLE 4/90; R 1/88; RLE 86; CBO; book by Lawrence Gasman; R, Fall 05, Summer 06, Winter 06 (book review))

Endangered Species Act (R Winter 92, Winter 07-08)

Taxicabs, Uber and Lyft (R 83; RLE 86; JLEO 87; JTEP 87; Sutirtha Bagchi, *A Tale of Two Cities: An Examination of Medallion Prices in New York and Chicago*, forthcoming in RIO

Marketable Pollution Rights (YJR Winter 89, Fall 86; JLE 4/88; JEP Spring 89; R Winter 04, Fall 07)

The Value of Human Life (JPAM Spring '88, Winter 89; R Winter 04)

Illegal Drug Regulation (JPAM Fall 90 (book review); PI Summer '88 & Fall 90; JPHP Winter 89; JDI Fall 90; R Winter 06)

Patents and Intellectual Property (JEP Winter 91)

Affirmative Action (JHR 84; ReStat 84; JEP Winter 89, Fall 90 and lots more)

The Economics of Lotteries (JEP Fall 90)

Regulation of Asbestos (PSR Fall 90)

Recycling (PI Fall 91; JPAM Fall 06)

Medical Malpractice (JHPPL Winter 89 & Fall '91; R Spring 05, Fall 05, Winter 06, Summer 07, JEL Spring 11)

Immigration, Employment Opportunities and Criminal Behavior (AEJEP May 18)

Health Insurance and Labor Force Participation Among Same-Sex Couples (CEP Apr 15)

Copyrights and Trademarks (RLE 86 (vol. 8); JLE 10/87; JLE 10/89 (pt. 1))

Patents, Pro and Con (JEP Winter 13)

Baseball (JLS 1/78; books by Zimbalist; Scully)

The Occupational Health and Safety Act (OSHA) (JPAM Spring 86; YJR2/1; PI Fall 77; R 9/77, 11/77; PSR 2/82)

Government Support of the Arts (PSJ 76; PR Fall 79, Fall 80; book: *Pricing the Priceless*)

School Vouchers (JEL June 17)

Charter Schools and the Achievement Gap (Princeton - Brookings, The Future of Children)

Pre-K Education and Educational Achievement (Princeton - Brookings, The Future of Children)

Vouchers and Public School Choice (PI Spring 91; JPAM Summer 98, Spring 02,  
 Spring 01 & Fall 04 (book reviews); Spring 05, Summer 07, Winter 07)

Competitive Effects of Means-Tested School Vouchers (AEJAE, Jan 14)

Summer Jobs and Academic Achievement (JPAM Fall 14)

Competitive Effects of School Vouchers (AEJAE Jan 14)

Charter School Effectiveness in Massachusetts and NYC (AEJAE Oct 13)

Who Benefits from KIPP (charter schools)? (JPAM Fall 12)

Merit Scholarship Aid to College and Completion Rates (AEJAE Oct 14)

Charter Schools (book reviews in JPAM Spring 12)

What Can We Learn from Charter School Lotteries? (JEP Summer 16)

No Child Left Behind (JPE 06, EJ 06, CEP 06, JPAM 05)

The Long-term Impact of the Head Start Program (Bauer and Schanzenbach @ Brookings, 8/19/16)

Voucher Design and Neighborhood Quality (AEJEP May 18)

School Spending and Educational Attainment (AEJEP Nov 17)

School Choice and Student Achievement (AEJAE Jan 18)

Gender Wage Gap (JLE Oct 12; JEL Sep 17; Claudia Golden in JEP Summer 15 - Rec. for  
 Further Reading; RSF Aug 16)

Contraception and the Gender Gap in Wages (July 2012)

Financing Intercollegiate Athletics and Enforcing Regulations (IJSF 06)

The Economics of Immigration (Cato W12, F 17; JEL Dec 17)

Needle Exchange Programs and Drug Behavior (JPAM Spring 05)

Steroids (R Summer 05)

Psycho-Pharmaceuticals and Crime Trends (JPAM Winter 10)

Road Pricing (R Winter 06 (book review); JTEP 07)

Ticket Scalping (CATO Spring 05; Winter 02)

Markets for Adoption (CATO Winter 03)

The Economics of Dowries (JEP Fall '07)

Global Warming and Climate Change (R Winter 06, JEP Spring 09 and lots more)

Web Gambling (R Winter 06)

Market-based Policies re Greenhouse Gases (JEP Spring 09)

Tax Treatment of Charitable Giving: <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/42730>

The Market for Charitable Giving (JEP Spring 11)

The Impact of Access to Groundwater on Rural Poverty and Conflict (AEJAE July 14)

Clunkers or Junkers: Adverse Selection in a Vehicle Retirement Program (AEJEP Nov. 12; JEP Winter 14 – Rec. for Further Reading )

The Effect of EITC Payments on Maternal and Infant Health (AEJEP May 14; Feb 15)

The Economics of Spam (JEP Summer 12)

Soap Operas and Fertility (AEJAE Oct 12)

Are Big-Time Sports a Threat to Student Achievement? (AEJAE Oct 12)

The Environmental Consequences of NAFTA (via trade in used cars) AEJEP Nov 10)

The Effect of Health Insurance Coverage on Use of Medical Services (AEJEP Feb 12)

Do Nursing Strikes Kill? (AEJEP (Feb 12)

Why is the Teen Birth Rate in America So High, and Does It Matter? (JEP Spring 12)

The Curse: Are Natural Resources Always a Good Thing? (Milliken Institute Review 2011:4)

The Impacts of Biofuel Mandates on Food Prices and Emissions (RFF Winter 16)

Media Influences on Teen Childbearing (AER Dec 15)

The EU Emissions Trading System (JEP Summer 16: p. 277)

Welfare Reform: a 20-Year Perspective (JPAM Winter 16)

Removing Bottled Water on College Campuses (JEP Summer 15 - Rec. for Further Reading)

Banning Bottled Water (Am. J. of Public Health July 15)

The Private Rationality of Bottled Water Drinking (CEP Jul 15)

The Effect of Disability Insurance Receipt on Labor Supply (AEJ:EP May 14)

Economic Perspectives on Incarceration and the Criminal Justice System

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/page/files/20160423\\_cea\\_incarceration\\_criminal\\_justice.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/page/files/20160423_cea_incarceration_criminal_justice.pdf)



Should the private sector manage our national parks?

<http://www.georgewright.org/322fretwell.pdf>

Right to Work Laws (Cato Winter 16)

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiatives (Cato Winter 18)

Choice and Inertia in Residential Electric Power Markets (AEJEP Nov 17)

The Impact of Filing a Tax Return on Poverty (AEJEP Nov 17)

Conditional Cash Transfers (in developing countries) (JEL Sep 17)

Cash for Clunkers (old cars) Program (AEJAE July 17)

The NCAA Cartel (RIO March 18)

The Case for Paying College Athletes (JEP Winter 15)

Resale Price Maintenance (RIO March 18)

The Underground Gun Market (RSF Oct 17)

Are Top Universities Becoming More or Less Elite? (RSF Apr 2016)