

Derek Wu

(434)-924-3746

derek.wu@virginia.edu 

www.derek-wu.com 

EMPLOYMENT

University of Virginia, Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy
Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Economics

Aug 2022 –
Charlottesville, VA

EDUCATION

University of Chicago
Ph.D., Public Policy
Thesis: “*Essays on Poverty and Safety-Net Programs*”
Committee: Bruce Meyer, Dan Black, Manasi Deshpande

2015 – 2021
Chicago, IL

Princeton University
A.B., School of Public and International Affairs (*with honors*)
Certificate in Finance

2009 – 2013
Princeton, NJ

RESEARCH FIELDS

Public Economics, Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Applied Microeconomics

PUBLICATIONS

Meyer, Bruce D., **Derek Wu**, Grace Finley, Patrick Langetieg, Carla Medalia, Mark Payne, and Alan Plumley. Forthcoming. “The Accuracy of Tax Imputations: Estimating Tax Liabilities and Credits Using Linked Survey and Administrative Data.” In Chetty, R., J. Friedman, J. Gornick, B. Johnson, and A. Kennickell (eds.), *Measuring and Understanding the Distribution and Intra/Inter-Generational Mobility of Income and Wealth*, NBER Book Series.

Corinth, Kevin, Bruce D. Meyer, and **Derek Wu**. 2022. “The Change in Poverty from 1995 to 2016 among Single Parent Families.” *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings*.

Meyer, Bruce D., **Derek Wu**, Victoria Mooers, and Carla Medalia. 2021. “The Use and Misuse of Income Data and Extreme Poverty in the United States.” *Journal of Labor Economics*, 39(S1): S5-S58.

Wu, Derek. 2020. “Disentangling the Effects of the School Year from the School Day: Evidence from the TIMSS Assessments.” *Education Finance and Policy*, 15(1): 104-135.

Medalia, Carla, Bruce D. Meyer, Amy O’Hara, and **Derek Wu**. 2019. “Linking Survey & Administrative Data to Measure Income, Inequality, and Mobility.” *International Journal of Population Data Science*, 4(1): 1-8. (Winner of the ADRF Network 2018 Annual Conference Best Paper Award)

Meyer, Bruce D. and **Derek Wu**. 2018. “The Poverty Reduction of Social Security and Means-Tested Transfers.” *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 71(5): 1106-1153.

WORKING PAPERS

“Certification and Recertification in Welfare Programs: What Happens When Automation Goes Wrong?” (with Bruce Meyer), July 2022.

“A Dynamic View of Income, Employment, Household Structure, and Health Around Safety Net Participation” (with Jonathan Zhang), July 2022. *Under Review*.

“The Anti-Poverty, Targeting, and Labor Supply Effects of Replacing a Child Tax Credit with a Child Allowance” (with Kevin Corinth, Bruce Meyer, and Matthew Stadnicki), March 2022. NBER Working Paper No. 29366. *Under Review*.

“Does Geographically Adjusting Poverty Thresholds Improve Poverty Measurement and Program Targeting?” (with Brian Curran and Bruce Meyer), August 2021.

“Learning about Homelessness Using Linked Administrative and Survey Data” (with Alexa Grunwaldt, Carla Medalia, Bruce Meyer, and Angela Wyse), May 2021. NBER Working Paper No. 28861.

“Do Surveys Miss the Poor? Evidence from Administrative SNAP Records” (with Bruce Meyer), March 2021.

“COVID-19 and the Urban Taxi Market: Lessons from Chicago”, July 2020.

“Do Federal Grants Crowd Out Local Spending? Evidence from Title I”, June 2019.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Does Timely Receipt of Transfer Benefits Matter? Evidence from Variation in Administrative Processing Time” (with Jonathan Zhang)

“The Reporting of Unemployment Insurance and Unemployment in Survey and Administrative Sources” (with Patrick Langetieg, Bruce Meyer, and Matthew Stadnicki)

“Understanding Poverty by Linking Survey, Tax, and Program Data” (with Carla Medalia and Bruce Meyer), March 2020.

“Changes in Poverty Over Time Using Linked Survey and Administrative Data” (with Bruce Meyer)

“Welfare Cuts and Well-Being: Evidence from Indiana in the Great Recession”

RESEARCH NOTES

“A Note on Anomalous Average Partial Effects from Probit Specifications” (with Bruce Meyer and Brian Curran), July 2022.

“A Note on Comparisons of Well-Being Between the Supplemental Poverty Measure and the Official Poverty Measure” (with Brian Curran and Bruce Meyer), December 2020.

PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH

Kurzweil, Martin and **Derek Wu**. 2015. “Building a Pathway to Student Success at Georgia State University.” Ithaka S+R Report.

Wu, Derek. 2015. “Online Learning in Postsecondary Education: A Review of the Empirical Literature (2013-2014).” Ithaka S+R Report.

Mulhern, Christine, Richard R. Spies, Matthew P. Staiger, and **Derek Wu**. 2015. “The Effects of Rising Student Costs in Higher Education: Evidence from Public Institutions in Virginia.” Ithaka S+R Report.

Wu, Derek. 2015. "Appendix: University of California Online Education Initiative." In Bowen, W.G. and E.M. Tobin, *Locus of Authority: The Evolution of Faculty Roles in the Governance of Higher Education*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

PRESENTATIONS

2022: APPAM Fall Conference; Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Congressional Budget Office; Federal Reserve Board of Governors; Federal Trade Commission; George Mason University, Schar School; NBER Summer Institute, Public Economics; NTA Annual Conference (scheduled); RAND Corporation; University of Virginia, Batten School; U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis; SEA Annual Meeting (scheduled); SOLE Annual Meeting; Washington Center for Equitable Growth Grantee Conference (scheduled)

2021: AEA Annual Meetings; Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families; NTA Annual Conference; SEA Annual Meeting; SOLE Annual Meeting; University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy; U.S. Census Bureau; ZEW Public Finance Conference

2020: APPAM Fall Conference; Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families; Joint Statistical Meetings; University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy; U.S. Census Bureau; Washington Center for Equitable Growth Grantee Conference

2019: AEA Annual Meetings; AEEP Annual Conference; National Academies of Sciences' Data Linkage Day; University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy; U.S. Census Bureau

2018 & earlier: APPAM Fall Conference; Joint Statistical Meetings; SEA Annual Meetings; Shandong University; University of Chicago, Crossing Disciplinary Boundaries in the Social Sciences; University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy; U.S. Census Bureau; WEA International Conference

TEACHING

University of Virginia

Research Methods & Data Analysis I (MPP) 2022

University of Chicago

Advanced Statistics for Data Analysis II (MPP), Head TA for Bruce Meyer 2019, 2020

Advanced Statistics for Data Analysis I (MPP), Head TA for Dan Black 2018, 2019

Quantitative Methods in Public Policy (Undergraduate), TA for Anthony Fowler 2017

Advanced Microeconomics II (PhD), TA for Damon Jones 2017

Analytical Politics I (MPP), TA for Ethan Bueno de Mesquita 2016

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

Heinz Dissertation Award, Honorable Mention 2022

Washington Center for Equitable Growth Doctoral Grant (\$15,000) 2020

Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Interventions Scholars Grant (\$25,000) 2020

University of Chicago NORC Fellowship (Declined) 2017

Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans (Finalist) 2016

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Honorable Mention) 2016

University of Chicago Harris School PhD Fellowship 2015 – 2021

Woodrow Wilson School Summer Grant (\$5,000) 2012

Pearson Prize for Higher Education, National Fellow (\$10,000) 2010

Coca-Cola National Scholar (\$20,000) 2009

United States Senate Youth Program, Maryland Delegate (\$5,000) 2008

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Post-Doctoral Scholar & Acting Executive Director, Comprehensive Income Dataset Project	2022
Research Fellow for Bruce Meyer (spent SY 2017-18 full-time at U.S. Census Bureau)	2017 – 2021
Research Analyst for William G. Bowen, Ithaca Strategy and Research, New York, NY	2013 – 2015
Intern, White House Council of Economic Advisers, Washington, D.C.	2012
Intern & Research Fellow, National Council on Teacher Quality, Washington, D.C.	2010, 2011
Student Member, Maryland State Board of Education	2008 – 2009

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee

Journal of Public Economics, National Tax Journal

Affiliations

U.S. Census Bureau Special Sworn Status, AEA, APPAM, ASA

Selected Volunteer and Extracurricular Activities

Reader, PhD Admissions Committee, University of Chicago Harris School	2017
Co-Chair, PhD Social Committee, University of Chicago Harris School	2016 – 2017
Project Coordinator, SVC imPACT Volunteer Tutoring Program, Trenton (NJ)	2009 – 2013

MEDIA CITATIONS

Associated Press, Bloomberg, Brookings, CBS News, Chronicle of Higher Education, CNN, Hechinger Report, Inside Higher Ed, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, The Economist, Slate, Vox, VoxEU, Wall Street Journal, Washington Monthly, Washington Post, Yahoo! Finance

PERSONAL

Citizenship: United States of America

Languages: English (native), Mandarin Chinese (oral fluency), Spanish (proficient)