

April, 2020

William R. Johnson

Current Position: Georgia S. Bankard Professor of Economics , University of Virginia

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Education: B.A., 1968, Wesleyan University, magna cum laude with High Honors in History and Economics

Ph.D., 1975, Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Past Positions:

- July 1972-July 1973: Economist, Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington, D.C.
- Sept. 1973-July 1974: Visiting Lecturer, Department of Economics, Wesleyan University
- Sept. 1978-June 1979: Visiting Scholar, National Bureau of Economic Research, Palo Alto, California
Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Stanford University
- Sept. 1974- Jan 2008: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, University of Virginia
- Sept. 1990-Aug., 1993: Chair, Department of Economics, University of Virginia
- Jan. 1994- March, 1994: Visiting Professor, Department of Economics, University of Chicago
- Sept. 1999 - August, 2001 Chair, Department of Economics, University of Virginia
- Aug, 2006 – Aug, 2009 Chair, Department of Economics, University of Virginia
- Jan 2008 – present Georgia Bankard Professor of Economics

Research Interests:

Labor Economics, Public Finance, Economics of Education, Economics of Information

Publications:

I. Articles in Refereed Journals

"Parties or Problem Sets: Review Article on How College Works and Paying for the Party", Journal of Economic Literature, March, 2017.

"House Prices and Female Labor Force Participation", Journal of Urban Economics, July, 2014, vol 82, pp 1-11. .

"Fixed Costs and Hours Constraints", Journal of Human Resources , Fall, 2011

"Faculty without Students: Resource Allocation in Higher Education", (with Sarah Turner) Journal of Economic Perspectives, Spring, 2009

"Are Public Subsidies to Higher Education Regressive ?" Education Finance and Policy, Summer, 2006.

"The Economics of Ideas and the Ideas of Economists" presidential address to the Southern Economic Association (November, 2005) Southern Economic Journal , July, 2006..

"Creative Pricing in Markets for Intellectual Property" Review of Economic Research on Copyright Issues, 2(1), 2005

"Evaluating a Simple Method for Estimating Black-White Gaps in Median Wages" (with Derek Neal and Yuichi Kitamura), American Economic Review, May, 2000.

"Black-White Test Score Differences and Black-White Earnings Differences" (with D.Neal) in C. Jencks and M. Phillips, eds. Black-White Test Score Differences, Brookings Institution, 1998

"The Role of Pre-Market Factors in Black-White Wage Differences" (with Derek Neal) Journal of Political Economy, October, 1996. Reprinted in John Addison, ed., Recent Developments in Labour Economics, Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, UK., 2007. Reprinted in John J Donohue, ed. Law and Economics of Discrimination, Edward Elgar Publishing.

"Comments on 'The Simple Law and Economics of Copyright Collectives' " Virginia Law Review, February, 1992.

"Decentralized Income Redistribution Reconsidered", Economic Inquiry, January, 1991.

"Accounting for Changes in the Labor Supply of Recently Divorced Women" (with Jon Skinner), Journal of Human Resources, Fall, 1988.

"Income Redistribution in a Federal System" American Economic Review, June, 1988.

"Income Redistribution as Human Capital Insurance," Journal of Human Resources, Spring, 1987.

"Selectivity Bias and the Determinants of SAT Scores" (with A. Behrendt, J. Eisenach), Economics of Education Review, 1986.

"Labor Supply and Marital Separation" (with Jon Skinner), American Economic Review, June, 1986.

"The Cost of Reducing Income Inequality" (with Edgar Browning) The Cato Journal, Spring/Summer, 1986.

"The Economics of Copying," Journal of Political Economy, February 1985. (Reprinted in The Economics of Intellectual Property, R. Towse and R. Holzhauser, eds. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2002 and in Robert Merges, ed. Economics of Intellectual Property Law, Edward Elgar, 2007).)

"The Social Efficiency of Fixed Wages," Quarterly Journal of Economics, February 1985

"The Tradeoff Between Equality and Efficiency" (with Edgar K. Browning), Journal of Political Economy, April, 1984.

"Taxes in the United States," (with Edgar K. Browning), in M. Walker and W. Block, eds., Taxation: An International Perspective, (Vancouver: Fraser Institute, 1984).

"Cost Shifting in Health Care: An Economic Analysis" (with Jack Meyer), Health Affairs, Summer, 1983.

"The Distributional and Efficiency Effects of Increasing the Minimum Wage: A Simulation" (with Edgar K. Browning), American Economic Review, March, 1983.

"Minimum Wages and the Distribution of Income," (with Edgar K. Browning), in Report of the Minimum Wage Study Commission, Volume VII, (Washington: 1981), pp. 31-58.

"Taxation and the Cost of National Health Insurance" (with Edgar K. Browning) in M. Pauly, ed., National Health Insurance: What Now, What Later, What Never? (Washington: 1980).

"Vintage Effects in the Earnings of White American Males," Review of Economics and Statistics, August, 1980.

"The Effect of the Negative Income Tax on Risk-Taking in the Labor Market," Economic Inquiry, July, 1980.

"The Demand for General and Specific Training with Occupational Mobility," Review of Economic Studies, October, 1979

"Taxes, Transfer, and Income Inequality" (with Edgar K. Browning) in G. Walton, ed., Regulatory Change in an Atmosphere of Crisis: Current Implications of the Roosevelt Years, (Academic Press: 1979).

"A Further Look at the Hansen-Weisbrod-Pechman Debate: Comment," Journal of Human Resources, Fall, 1978.

"Overinsurance and Public Provision of Insurance: Comment," Quarterly Journal of Economics, November, 1978.

"The Cost Shift Compared with the Income and Payroll Taxes," in Jack Meyer, Passing the Health Care Buck, American Enterprise Institute,(Washington, 1983), pp. 10-18.

"A Theory of Job Shopping," Quarterly Journal of Economics, May, 1978.

"Substitution in Household Production and the Efficiency of In-Kind Transfers," Public Finance Quarterly, April, 1978

"Racial Wage Discrimination and Industrial Structure," Bell Journal of Economics, Spring, 1978

"The Measurement and Trend of Inequality: Comment," American Economic Review, June, 1977.

"Choice of Compulsory Insurance Schemes under Adverse Selection," Public Choice, Fall, 1977.

"Uncertainty and the Distribution of Earnings," in F. Thomas Juster, ed., The Distribution of Economic Well-Being, National Bureau of Economic Research, Conference on Research in Income and Wealth, 1977.

"The Superiority of Sequential Search: A Calculation" (with Robert Feinberg), Southern Economic Journal, April, 1977.

"The Supply and Demand for Scrapped Automobiles," Western Economic Journal, December, 1971.

II. Monographs

The Distribution of the Tax Burden (with Edgar K. Browning), American Enterprise Institute, Washington, 1979.

III. Reviews

Review of Studies in the Economics of Search, by J. McCall and S. Lippman, Kyklos, Vol. 34, Fasc. 2, 1981.

Review of Reinventing Public Education by Paul Hill, Lawrence Pierce and James Guthrie and Hard Lessons by Carol Asher, Norm Frucher and Robert Berne Southern Economic Journal, October 1998.

IV. Reports

Abnormal Youth Unemployment and Imperfect Information, Report to U.S. Department of Labor pursuant to contract J-9-M-8-9114, 1979.

Job Shopping Among Young Men, Report to U.S. Department of Labor pursuant to grant 21-51-78-52.

Estimating the Effect of Copying on the Demand for Original Creative Works, Report to Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress, 1989.

V. Op Ed Pieces

“Lawn of Averages”, Washington Post, March 9, 2003

“A Steadier State for Hiring in Colleges” Chronicle of Higher Education, June 6, 2003

VI. Presentations

“Housing Prices and Female Labor Force Participation”, presented at Society of Labor Economists, Chicago, May, 2007; IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Conference on Labor Economics, Buch/Ammersee Germany, May 31-June 3, 2012

“Hours Constraints in Market Equilibrium” presented at University of Virginia (Feb, 2005), Princeton University (April, 2005), Society of Labor Economists World Congress (June, 2005), Dartmouth College (October, 2006)

“When is the Efficient Subsidy to Higher Education the Equitable Subsidy ?” presented at University of Virginia, September, 2004

“Are Public Subsidies to Higher Education Regressive ?” presented at Colorado State University, April, 2002; Biennial Conference of Hong Kong Economic Association (invited presentation), December, 2002; University of Maryland, September, 2003, Levy Institute Conference on Distributional Effects of Government Activity, October, 2004

"Distributional Issues in Public Support of Higher Education" presented at Virginia Conference on the Economics of Higher Education, October, 1998, National Bureau of Economic Research, December, 1998; University of Wisconsin, Oct 1999; Allied Social Science Association Meetings, Jan, 2000.

“Schooling Externalities: Evidence from the Housing Market” (with Ben Scafidi) , presented at Southern Economic Association meetings, November, 1997.

“Black-White Wage Gaps” Hagedorn lecture presented at Wesleyan University, April, 1997

“Does School Finance Reform Lead to More Equal Achievement ?” (presented at University of Kentucky, University of Virginia)

"The Consequences of Black-White Differences in Pre-market Skills: A View of the High School and Beyond Data", (with D. Neal) presented at American Economic Association meetings, San Francisco, Jan 1996.

"Quantitative Skills and the Male-Female Wage Gap" (presented at University of Virginia)

"When is a Military Draft Optimal?" (presented at University of Virginia, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Texas A + M, Center for Naval Analyses)

"Estimating the Effect of Copying on the Demand for Original Creative Works" (presented at University of Virginia, University of Georgia)

University of Virginia Service:

Faculty Senate, 1996-2000
Member, Academic Affairs Committee, Faculty Senate, 1997-1999
Member, Internal visiting committee, Sociology Department, 1998
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee, Faculty Senate, 1999-2000
Chair , Member, Bankard Fund Committee, 1999-2002, 2006-10, 2014
Member, Board of Virginia Center for Education Policy Studies,2001
Member, Teachers for a New Era Research Advisory Committee, 2003- 8
Member, Arts and Sciences Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2004-6
Chair, Batten Public Policy School Faculty Appointment Committee, 2009-10
Member, Batten School search committee for two junior economists, 2011-12
Arts and Sciences budget and development committee, 2013 – 16
Member search committee for joint Woodson Institute-social science position, 2013
Provost's promotion and tenure committee, 2015 - 7

Professional Service:

Editor, AEA Papers and Proceedings, 2008-
Associate Editor, Southern Economic Journal, 1996-
Vice President, Southern Economic Association,1998-2001
Editor, Journal of Labor Economics, 2001-11
President-Elect and Program Chair, Southern Economic Association, 2003-4
President, Southern Economic Association, 2004-5
Neutral Expert to Advise Federal Circuit Court Judge Ellen Huvelle(2004)
Promotion/tenure letters written for: University of Texas (1998, 2010, 2013), University of Georgia (2006), University of Kentucky (2006),

Refereed for:

Journal of Political Economy
Review of Economics and Statistics
Journal of Labor Economics
Journal of Human Resources
Southern Economic Journal
National Science Foundation
American Economic Review
Journal of Public Economics
International Review of Law and Economics
Journal of Law and Economics
Berkeley Electronic Press