

David J. Zimmerman

David.J.Zimmerman@williams.edu
(413) 597-2192

Department of Economics
Williams College
Williamstown, MA 01267

37 Thistle Path
Williamstown, MA 01267
(413) 281-2432

Education

Princeton University , Princeton, NJ	
Ph.D. (Economics)	1992
M.A. (Economics)	1987
University of Toronto , Toronto, Ontario	
Bachelor of Commerce	1985

Current Positions

Williams College	
Professor of Economics	2003-
Orrin Sage Professor of Political Economy	2004-
Williams Project on the Economics of Higher Education	
Director	2002-

Current Affiliations

National Bureau of Economic Research	
Research Associate (Education Program)	2003-2019
Program on Higher Education Participant	1998-
Institute for Research on Poverty	
Associate	1996-

Fields of Specialization

Labor Economics	Poverty and Income Distribution
Higher Education Economics	Peer Effects
Economic Mobility	Labor Market Discrimination

Past Positions and Affiliations

Williams College	
Department of Economics Chair	2002-2005, 2010-2011, 2018-2019
Associate Professor of Economics	1997-2003
Assistant Professor of Economics	1991-1997
Williams Project on the Economics of Higher Education	
Participant	1995-2001
Forum for the Future of Higher Education	
Participant	1997-2001
NBER Program on Children's Economic Welfare	

Participant	1993-1995
George Mason University School of Law (Law and Economics Center) Faculty Member	July 1993 and July 1995.
Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin – Madison Sabbatical Scholar	1995
Centre for Industrial Relations, University of Toronto Sabbatical Scholar	1994
Princeton University Lecturer, Department of Economics	1990-1991
Teaching Assistant	1988-1990
The World Bank Researcher	1987-1988

Research

- Tobin, J.; Hall, O.; Lazris, J.; Zimmerman, D. Financial Stress and Health Considerations: A Tradeoff in the Reopening Decisions of U.S. Liberal Arts Colleges during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *J. Risk Financial Manag.* 2021, 14(8), 382; <https://doi.org/10.3390/jrfm14080382>. <https://www.mdpi.com/1911-8074/14/8/382>
- “Access and Affordability in Selective, Private Non-profit Colleges and Universities Leadership” with Catharine Hill in *Challenges in Higher Education: Practical and Scholarly Solutions*, Routledge, 2017.
- “Students Choosing Colleges: Understanding the Matriculation Decision at a Highly Selective Private Institution.” *Economics of Education Review*. February, 2012. With Peter Nurnberg and Morton Schapiro.
- “Goodwill”: Measuring the Intangible Assets at Highly Selective Private Colleges and Universities.” September, 2011. With Morton Schapiro and Peter Nurberg. (in progress)
- Targeting Investments in Children: Fighting Poverty When Resources Are Limited*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2010. Edited with Phillip B. Levine.
- “Are Poor Students Just Rich Students Without the Money?” Williams Project on the Economics of Higher Education Discussion Paper, 2006.
- “Children’s Welfare Exposure and Subsequent Development.” *Journal of Public Economics*. Vol. 89, No. 1. January, 2005. Pages 31-56. With Phillip B. Levine.
- “Institutional Ethos, Peers, and Individual Outcomes.” Williams Project on the Economics of Higher Education Discussion Paper 68, June 2004.
- “Discrimination in the Small-Business Credit Market.” *The Review of Economics and Statistics*. Vol. 85, No. 4. November, 2003. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. Pages 930-943. With David G. Blanchflower and Phillip B. Levine.
- “Peer Effects in Higher Education: Evidence from a Natural Experiment.” *Review of Economics and Statistics*. Vol. 85, No. 1. 2003. Pages 9-23.
- “Peer Effects in Higher Education.” *College Decisions: How Students Actually Make Them and How They Could*. ed. Caroline Hoxby. University of Chicago Press, Forthcoming 2003. With Gordon Winston.
- Statistics and Econometrics: Methods and Applications*. New York: J. Wiley, 2003. With Orley Ashenfelter and Phillip B. Levine.
- “Book Review: *Tuition Rising*, by Ronald Ehrenberg.” Forthcoming *Journal of Economic Literature*, June 2002.
- “Where is Aggressive Price Competition Taking Higher Education.” *Change*. Vol. 32, No. 4. July/August, 2000. Pages 10-19. With Gordon C. Winston.
- “Students Educating Students: The Emerging Role of Peer Effects in Higher Education.” Williams Project on the Economics of Higher Education Discussion Paper 50, 1999. with George Goethals and Gordon Winston.
- “Students Educating Students: The Role of Peer Effects in Higher Education.” *Futures Forum*, 1999. With George Goethals and Gordon Winston.
- “An Empirical Analysis of the Welfare Magnet Debate Using the NLSY.” *Journal of Population Economics*. Vol. 12, No. 3. 1999. Pages 391-401. With Phillip B. Levine.

- “Roe v. Wade and American Fertility.” *American Journal of Public Health*. Vol. 89, No. 2. February, 1999. Pages 199-203. With Phillip B. Levine, Thomas J. Kane, and Douglas Staiger.
- “Estimates of the Returns to Schooling from Sibling Data: Fathers, Sons, and Brothers.” *Review of Economics and Statistics*. Vol. 79, No. 1. February, 1997. With Orley Ashenfelter.
- “Parastatals in Zambia.” *The Evaluation of Public Expenditure in Africa*. ed. Henry J. Bruton, Catharine Hill, and Arup Banerji Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 1996. With Arup Banerji and Mwene Mwinga.
- “The Intergenerational Correlation in AFDC Participation: Welfare Trap or Poverty Trap?” Institute for Research on Poverty Discussion Paper 1100-96. 1996. With Phillip B. Levine.
- “The Effects of State Restrictions on Medicaid Funding of Abortions,” *Focus*. Vol. 17, No. 3. Winter, 1996.
- “The Effect of Medicaid Abortion Funding Restrictions on Abortions, Pregnancies and Births.” *Journal of Health Economics*. Vol. 15, No. 5. October, 1996. With Phil Levine and Amy Trainor.
- “Book Review: *Values and Public Policy*, by Henry Aaron, Thomas Mann, and Timothy Taylor (eds.)” *Journal of Economic Literature*, 1996.
- “A Comparison of the Sex-Type of Occupational Aspirations and Subsequent Achievement.” *Work and Occupations*. Vol. 22, No. 1. February, 1995. Pages 73-84. With Phillip B. Levine.
- “The Benefit of Additional High School Math and Science Classes For Young Women: Evidence From Longitudinal Data.” *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*. Vol. 13, No. 2. April, 1995. With Phillip B. Levine.
- “Book Review: *The State of Working America*, by Lawrence Mishel and Jared Bernstein.” *Choice*. October 1993.
- “Book Review: *A Small Town in Modern Times*, by David M. Rayside.” *Journal of Regional Science*. Vol. 32, No. 3. August 1992.
- “Regression Toward Mediocrity in Economic Stature.” *The American Economic Review*. Vol. 82, No. 3. June, 1992. Pages 409-429.

Works in Progress

- “The High School Origin of Students at Elite Colleges.” With Catharine B. Hill and Ralph Bradburd.
- “Neighborhood Peer Effects in Higher Education.”
- “Maternal Welfare Receipt and Children’s Educational Performance.” with Phillip B. Levine.
- “Maternal Welfare Receipt and Teen Fertility: An Intergenerational Analysis.” with Phillip B. Levine.

Awards and Fellowships

Robin Hood Foundation (w/ Phil Levine)	\$250,000	2008
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (w/ Al Goethals and Gordon Winston)	\$553,000	2005
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (w/ Al Goethals and Gordon Winston)	\$475,000	1999
William T. Grant Foundation (w/ Phil Levine)	\$220,498	1996-1999
University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty	Sabbatical Grant	1995
Williams Project on the Economics of Higher Education	Research Grant	1996 and 1997
Wiley Publishing Company	Book Grant	1994
Department of Labor Research Grant (w/ Phil Levine)	\$40,000	1992-1993
Princeton University Fellowship		1985-1990
Princeton University Department of Economics' Nominee for University-wide Teaching Award		1989-1990
Princeton University Department of Economics' Nominee for University-wide Teaching Award		1988-1989

Conference Presentation and Discussion Roles

Presentations:

- “Is there a Bubble in Higher Education.” National Association of College Admissions Counselors. Denver, CO. October, 2012.
- “The High School Origin of Students at Elite Colleges.”

- Williams College. December 3, 2008.
- Evaluating Teaching and Learning at Liberal Arts Colleges: A Mellon 23 Workshop. Wellesley College. Sept. 12, 2008. Organizer.
- “Targeting Investments in Children: Fighting Poverty when Resources are Limited.”
NBER. Robin Hood Foundation. New York, NY. September 26, 2008. Organizer.
- “Does it Really Matter Where You Go to College?”
Little Three Admissions Conference. December 2006.
- “Presentation of ‘Are Poor Students Just Rich Students without the Money?’”
American Economic Association Annual Meeting. January 2005.
- “Presentation of ‘Institutional Ethos, Peers, and Individual Outcomes.’”
Colgate University. 2004.
National Bureau of Economic Research 2004.
Southern Economic Association Meetings. November 22, 2003.
- “Presentation of ‘Peer Effects in Higher Education.’”
Williams College. October 23, 2002.
National Bureau of Economic Research Higher Education Conference. Bretton Woods, NH.
August, 2002.
Williams Project on the Economics of Higher Education Summer Conference. Williams College.
July, 1997.
- “Presentation of ‘Peer Effects in Higher Education: Evidence from a Natural Experiment.’”
American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Friday, January 19, 2001.
Williams College, October 11, 2000.
Hunter College, New York. March 18, 2000.
National Bureau of Economic Research Higher Education Working Group. October 29, 1999.
- “Research at the Williams Project on the Economics of Higher Education: An Update.”
Boston University Institution on Race and Social Division. December 1, 2000.
- “Presentation of ‘Where is Aggressive Price Competition Taking Higher Education.’”
National Association of College and University Business Officers Annual Meetings. Chicago, IL.
July 25, 2000.
- “Presentation of ‘Maternal Welfare Receipt and Children’s Health and Development.’”
Northwestern University Joint Center for Poverty Research. November 12, 1999.
- “Presentation of ‘Discrimination in the Small Business Market.’”
Federal Reserve System Research Conference, Business and Access to Capital and Credit. March 8, 1999.
- “Presentation of ‘Students Educating Students: The Emerging Role of Peer Effects in Higher Education.’”
Virginia Conference on the Economics of Higher Education. October, 1998.
Aspen Institute. Aspen, Colorado. October, 1998.
- “Presentation of ‘An Empirical Analysis of the Welfare Magnet Debate.’”
Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research. May 1997.
Williams College. April, 1996.
American Economic Association Annual Meeting. January, 1996.
University of Wisconsin Labor Seminar. October, 1995.
National Bureau of Economic Research. May, 1995.
IRP, ASPE (DHHS), BLS, and FCS Poverty Research Seminar Series. Washington, D.C. May, 1995.
University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty. April, 1995.

“Presentation of ‘The Effect of State Abortion Restrictions on Abortions, Pregnancies and Births.’”
University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty. November, 1995.
National Bureau of Economic Research. May, 1995.
University of Toronto. December, 1994
Queens University. December, 1994.

“Presentation of ‘The Intergenerational Correlation in Welfare Participation: Welfare Trap or Poverty Trap?’”
University of Massachusetts. April, 1994.
National Bureau of Economic Research Workshop on Social Insurance. August, 1993.
Williams College. 1993.
Canadian Labor Economics Conference at the University of Toronto. 1993.
University of Minnesota Industrial Relations Center. 1993.

“Presentation of ‘The Additional Benefits of Additional High School Math and Science Training for Young Women: Evidence from Longitudinal Data.’” American Economic Association Annual Meeting. January, 1994.

“Presentation of ‘Estimating the Returns to Schooling Using Sibling Data.’”
National Bureau of Economic Research Labor Studies Conference. July, 1993.

“Presentation of ‘Comparing Young Women's Occupational Aspirations and Achievement: A Test of Pre-Market Based Explanations of Occupational Segregation.’” American Economic Association Annual Meeting. January, 1992.

Discussions:

“Discussion of ‘Peer Effects in Academic Cheating,’ by Scott Carrell, Frederick Malmstrom and James West.”
National Bureau of Economic Research, Higher Education Meeting, November 17, 2005.

Session on Higher Education. American Economic Association Annual Meeting. January 2005.

Higher Education Working Group at Cornell University. May 2003. Chair of Session.

“Discussion of ‘How Friendships Form,’ by Bruce Sacerdote.” National Bureau of Economic Research Higher Education Meeting. November 13, 2003

“Discussion of ‘Making SAT Scores Optional in Selective College Admissions: A Case Study,’ by Michael Robinson and Jim Monks.” National Bureau of Economic Research, Higher Education Meeting, November 15, 2002.

Higher Education Working Group at Cornell University. May 2002 and May 2001. Discussant.

“Discussion of ‘Loans, Liquidity, and Schooling Decisions,’ by Susan Dynarski.” National Bureau of Economic Research Higher Education Working Group. Nov 9, 2001.

“Discussion of ‘Do Indirect Cost Rates Matter,’ by Ron Ehrenberg and Jaroslava Mykula.” Cornell University Higher Education Working Group. October 16, 1999.

“Discussion of ‘Gender Differences in Salary and Promotion in the Humanities,’ by Donna Ginther and Kathy Hayes.” NBER Higher Education Working Group. May 1, 1999.

“Discussion of ‘Education and Income in the Early 20th Century: Evidence from the Great Plains: 1915-1950,’ by Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz.” American Economic Association Meetings. 1999.

Moderator of Debate between Michael McPherson and Abigail Thernstrom. “Should governments forbid all colleges and universities from taking race into account in admissions?” Williams College. March 5, 1998.

Session on Welfare Reform in the '90s. American Economic Association Annual Meeting. January. 1998.

"Forum for the Future of Higher Education." The Aspen Institute. Aspen, Colorado. September 1997.

"Discussion of 'Estimating the Intergenerational Correlation in Earnings using Canadian Data,' by Miles Corak et. al." Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario. Conference on Intergenerational Equity. February, 1997.

Moderator of Debate between Julian Simon and Vernon Briggs. "Immigration: Problem or Prospect?" Williams College. March 6, 1996.

"Discussion of 'A Hand-Up or a Hand-Out: Will Minimizing Exposure to and Reliance on Welfare Improve the Educational Outcomes of Young Men?,' by E. Michael Foster." American Economic Association Annual Meeting. January, 1994.

"Discussion of 'Marital Breakups in the Seattle-Denver Income Maintenance Experiment: A Different Conclusion,' by Glen Cain and Douglas Wissoker." American Economic Association Annual Meeting. January, 1994.

"Discussion of 'Econometric Evidence on Growth and the Distribution of Human Capital Investment,' by S. Smith and H. Courtney." Northeast Universities Development Consortium. October, 1993.

Referee for Journals and Foundations

American Economic Review	Journal of Human Resources
Social Science Quarterly	Industrial and Labor Relations Review
Economics of Education Review	The Journal of Economic Education
Journal of Population Economics	Review of Economics and Statistics
National Science Foundation	Smith-Richardson Foundation
Journal of Labor Economics	Journal of Industrial Organization
Journal of Public Economics	MDRC
Robinhood Foundation	Department of Justice

Courses Taught at Williams College

Economics 101	Introduction to Economics
Economics 237	Wealth and Poverty
Economics 253	Empirical Economic Methods
Economics 255	Econometrics
Economics 357T	The Economics of Higher Education (Tutorial)
Economics 359	The Economics of Higher Education (Seminar)
Economics 371	Economic Justice
Economics 401	Senior Seminar
Economics 510	Econometrics at the Center for Development Economics
Political Economy 401	Contemporary Problems in Political Economy

Service to Williams College

Economics 101 Coordinator	Economics 401 Coordinator, Chair
Information Technology Committee, Chair	Advisor to Provost's Office: Athletic Salaries (1998)
Freshman Advisor	Committee on Academic Computing
Political Economy Committee	Department Hiring Committee
Graduate School Advisor	Department Computer Coordinator
Department Curriculum Committee	Hiring Committee for Assistant Provost (2001)
Faculty Steering Committee (2001, 2002)	Study Away Coordinator (2001)
Department Chair (2002-2005, 2010-)	
Committee on Priorities and Resources, 2003-2005, 2008/9	
Ad-hoc Committee on Housing Affordability, Chair 2008/9	

Committee on Educational Policy, Chair 2006/7, 2009/10
Herchel-Smith, Donovan-Moody, and Martin-Wilson Scholarship Committee (2001)
Stetson-Sawyer Project Committee
Ad-hoc Committee on Tenure Appeals 2010-2011
Committee of Appointments and Promotions 2013/2014