

Matthew J. WISWALL

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he/him

(Update: 2 September 2026)

Current Positions

- Professor, Department of Economics, New York University, 2026-
- Editorial Board, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, 2019-
- Faculty Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2014-

Previous Positions

- Steven M. Kaye Professor of Economics, Johns Hopkins University, Department of Economics, 2024-25
- Visiting Research Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Department of Economics, 2023-24
- David Edwin and Lucille Hartmann Davies Chair, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021-24
- Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2018- (on-leave 2023-24)
- Associate Editor, *Econometrica*, 2019-2025
- Associate Editor, *Quantitative Economics*, 2017-2022
- Faculty Affiliate, Center for Financial Security, UW-Madison, 2019-24
- Faculty Fellow, Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy, 2018-24
- Faculty Affiliate, Center for Demography and Ecology, UW-Madison, 2018-24
- Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Research on Poverty, UW-Madison, 2016-24

- Juli Plant Grainger Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2018-21
- Associate Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2017-18
- Associate Editor, Journal of Business and Economics Statistics, 2015-18
- Visiting Associate Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2016-17
- Associate Professor of Economics, W.P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University, 2015-2017 (On leave, 2016-17)
- Assistant Professor of Economics, W.P. Carey School of Business, ASU, 2012-2015
- Researcher, Statistics Norway, Research Department, 2008-2015
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Johns Hopkins University, January-May 2012
- Assistant Professor of Economics, New York University, 2005-2012
- Faculty Affiliate, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, NYU, 2006-2012
- Faculty Affiliate, Institute of Human Development and Social Change, NYU, 2007-2012
- Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Education and Social Policy, NYU, 2006-2012
- Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, January-June 2009

Education

- Ph.D. Economics, University of California-Los Angeles, 2005
- M.A. Economics, University of California-Los Angeles, 2001
- B.A. History (with Honors), University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1998

Fields

Applied Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics, Labor Economics, Public Economics, Education and Demographic Economics

Awards and Fellowships

(Professional)

- H. I. Romnes Faculty Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2023-28

(Graduate)

- Spencer Foundation Fellowship for Research Related to Education, 2004-2005
- Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA, 2004-2005
- Institute for Labor and Employment, Dissertation Fellowship, 2003-2004
- Institute for Labor and Employment, Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, 2002-2003
- All University of California Group in Economic History Summer Fellowship, 2001
- Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA, 2000-2001
- Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA, 2000

(Undergraduate)

- Harrington Prize for Best Senior Thesis, UW-Madison, Department of History, 1998
- Trewartha Honors Undergraduate Research Grant, UW-Madison, Letters and Sciences Honors Program, 1997
- Hilldale Undergraduate Research Award, UW-Madison, College of Letters and Sciences, 1997
- University Bookstore Academic Excellence Award, UW-Madison, College of Letters and Sciences, 1997
- Gerald G. Somers Undergraduate Essay Award, UW-Madison, Department of Economics, 1996

Grants

- William T. Grant Foundation, “A Lever for More Equitable Access to Schools? Evidence from San Francisco” (with Damon Clark, Paco Martorell, and Adrianna Villavicencio), 2020-23
Amount: \$519,868; Role: Co-Principal Investigator
- US National Science Foundation, “Household Decision-Making and Child Development” (with Daniela del Boca and Christopher Flinn), 2014-17
Amount: \$530,000; Role: Principal Investigator

- Smith Richardson Foundation, “Do Summer Jobs Matter? Causal Evidence on the Impact of Summer Employment on Urban Youth” (with Amy Ellen Schwartz, Jacob Leos-Urbel and Meryle Weinstein), 2013-15
Amount: \$261,925; Role: Consultant
- Institute of Human Development and Social Change Seed Award, “Household Choices and Child Development” (with Daniela Del Boca), 2010-11
Amount: \$10,500; Role: Principal Investigator
- US National Science Foundation, “Women in Science from High School to College: Evidence from New York City Public Schools” (with Amy Schwartz and Leanna Stiefel), 2008-11
Amount: \$354,726; Role: Co-Principal Investigator
- US Dept. of Education (Institute for Education Sciences), “Do Small Schools Improve Student Performance in Large, Urban Districts? Evidence from New York City” (with Amy Schwartz and Leanna Stiefel), 2007-10
Amount: \$482,584; Role: Co-Principal Investigator
- NYU Research Challenge Fund, “Long Term Changes in Field of Study Choices for College Educated Women,” 2006
Amount: \$7,139; Role: Principal Investigator

Peer Reviewed Published Articles

28. “Parenting with Patience: Parental Incentives and Child Development” (with Daniela Del Boca, Christopher J. Flinn, and Ewout Verriest), *Journal of Political Economy* 134 (1), January 2026, p. 210-284 (NBER Working Paper 25596).
27. “Home and School in the Development of Children” (with Francesco Agostinelli and Morteza Saharkhiz), *International Economic Review* 66 (2), May 2025, p. 527-566 (NBER Working Paper 26037).
26. “Estimating the Technology of Children’s Skill Formation” (with Francesco Agostinelli), *Journal of Political Economy* 133 (3), March 2025, p. 846-887 (NBER Working Paper 22442).
25. “The Impacts of Same and Opposite Gender Alumni Speakers on Interest in Economics” (with Arpita Patnaik, Gwyn C. Pauley, and Joanna Venator), *Economics of Education Review* 102, October 2024, Article 102579 (NBER Working Paper 30983).

24. “The Role of Heterogeneous Risk Preferences, Discount Rates, and Earnings Expectations in College Major Choice” (with Arpita Patnaik, Joanna Venator, and Basit Zafar), *Journal of Econometrics* 231 (1), November 2022, p. 98-122 (NBER Working Paper 26785).
23. “Inequality in Early Care Experienced by U.S. Children” (with Sarah Flood, Joel F.S. McMurry, and Aaron Sojourner), *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 36 (2), Spring 2022, p. 199-222 (NBER Working Paper 29249).
Media: New York Times
22. “Human Capital Investments and Expectations about Career and Family” (with Basit Zafar), *Journal of Political Economy* 129 (5), May 2021, p. 1361-1424 (NBER Working Paper 22543).
21. “Making Summer Matter: The Impact of Youth Employment on Academic Performance” (with Amy Ellen Schwartz, Jacob Leos-Urbel, and Joel McMurry), *Quantitative Economics* 12 (2), May 2021, p. 477-504 (NBER Working Paper 21470).
20. “Child Care and Child Care Policy: Existing Policies, Their Effects, and Reforms” (with V. Joseph Hotz), *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 686 (1), November 2019, p. 310-338.
19. “Preference for the Workplace, Investment in Human Capital, and Gender” (with Basit Zafar), *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 133 (1), February 2018, p. 457–507 (NBER Working Paper 22173).
Media: The Atlantic
18. “Preferences and Biases in Educational Choices and Labour Market Expectations: Shrinking the Black Box of Gender” (with Ernesto Reuben and Basit Zafar), *Economic Journal* 127 (604), September 2017, p. 2153-2186.
17. “Beyond LATE with a Discrete Instrument: Heterogeneity in the Quantity-Quality Interaction of Children” (with Christian Brinch and Magne Mogstad), *Journal of Political Economy* 125 (4), August 2017, p. 985-1039.
16. “Transfers to Households with Children and Child Development” (with Daniela Del Boca and Christopher Flinn), *Economic Journal* 126 (596), October 2016, p. F136-F183.

15. “Testing the Quantity-Quality Model of Fertility: Estimation using Unrestricted Family Size Models” (with Magne Mogstad), *Quantitative Economics* 7 (1), March 2016, p. 157-192.
14. “Are All Schools Created Equal? Learning Environments in Small and Large Public High Schools in New York City” (with Amy Ellen Schwartz and Leanna Stiefel), *Economics of Education Review* 52, June 2016, p. 272–290.
13. “Does Small High School Reform Lift Urban School Districts? Evidence from New York City” (with Amy Ellen Schwartz and Leanna Stiefel), *Educational Researcher* 44 (3), April 2015, p. 161-172.
12. “How Do College Students Respond to Public Information about Earnings?” (with Basit Zafar), *Journal of Human Capital* 9 (2), 2015, p. 117-169.
Media: Washington Post
11. “Determinants of College Major Choice: Identification Using an Information Experiment” (with Basit Zafar), *Review of Economic Studies* 82 (2), April 2015, p. 791-824.
Media: Wall Street Journal
10. “Household Choices and Child Development” (with Daniela Del Boca and Christopher Flinn), *Review of Economic Studies* 81 (1), January 2014, p. 137-185.
9. “Evolution of Gender Differences in Post-Secondary Human Capital Investments: College Majors” (with Ahu Gemici), *International Economic Review* 55 (1), 2014, p. 23-56.
8. “Does Attending a STEM High School Improve Student Performance? Evidence from New York City” (with Amy Ellen Schwartz, Leanna Stiefel, and Jessica Boccoardo), *Economics of Education Review* 40, 2014, p. 93-105.
7. “Do Small Schools Improve Performance in Large, Urban Districts? Causal Evidence from New York City” (with Amy Ellen Schwartz and Leanna Stiefel), *Journal of Urban Economics* 77, September 2013, p. 27–40.
6. “The Dynamics of Teacher Quality,” *Journal of Public Economics* 100, April 2013, p. 61–78.

5. “What Linear Estimators Miss: The Effects of Family Income on Child Outcomes” (with Katrina V. Loken and Magne Mogstad), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 4 (2), April 2012, p. 1-35.
4. “Instrumental Variables Estimation with Partially Missing Instruments” (with Magne Mogstad), *Economics Letters* 114 (2), February 2012, p. 186-189.
3. “Risk Aversion and Support for Merit Pay: Theory and Evidence from Minnesota’s Q Comp Program” (with Carl Nadler), *Education Finance and Policy* 6 (1), Winter 2011, p. 75–104.
2. “Before and After: Gender Transitions, Human Capital, and Workplace Experiences” (with Kristen Schilt), *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy* 8 (1), 2008.
Media: Time New York Times Harvard Business Review
1. “A Parallel Implementation of the Simplex Function Minimization Routine” (with Donghoon Lee), *Computational Economics* 30 (2), September 2007, p. 171-187.

Book Chapters

- “College Majors” (with Arpita Patnaik and Basit Zafar) in *The Routledge Handbook of the Economics of Education*, ed. Brian P. McCall, November 2021. (NBER Working Paper 27645)

Policy Briefs and Short Pieces

- “Fixing Child Care: What Expanded Public Subsidies Could Mean for Children, Families, and Teachers” (with Jonathan Borowsky, Jessica H. Brown, Elizabeth E. Davis, Chloe Gibbs, Chris M. Herbst, Aaron Sojourner, Erdal Tekin), June 14, 2022, Brookings.
- “Private Health Care Spending and Medicaid Expansion: Evidence for Wisconsin” (with Gwyn C. Pauley), *Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy Research Report*, April 2019.
Media: Wisconsin State Journal
- “Private Health Care Spending and Medicaid Expansion: Another Report and Much Lower Cost Estimates” (with Gwyn C. Pauley), June 2019.
- “New Approaches to Understanding Choice of Major” (with Basit Zafar), *NBER Reporter* 2, June 2021.

Working Papers

- “An Equilibrium Model of the Impact of Increased Public Investment in Early Childhood Education” (with Jonathan Borowsky, Jessica H. Brown, Elizabeth E. Davis, Chloe Gibbs, Chris M. Herbst, Aaron Sojourner, Erdal Tekin), 2022 (NBER Working Paper 30140).
Media: New York Times, Washington Post, Axios, Huffington Post, Bloomberg
- “Early Childhood Care and Cognitive Development” (with Juan Chaparro and Aaron Sojourner), 2020, revision request (1st round) Journal of Political Economy (NBER Working Paper 26813).
- “Labor Market Search with Imperfect Information and Learning” (with John J. Conlon, Laura Pilossoph, and Basit Zafar), 2018 (NBER Working Paper 24988).
- “Identification of Dynamic Latent Factor Models: The Implications of Re-Normalization in a Model of Child Development” (with Francesco Agostinelli), 2016 (NBER Working Paper 22441).
- “Licensing and Occupational Sorting in the Market for Teachers,” 2010.

Teaching

- Labor Economics (Undergraduate): 2005-06, 2009-11, 2015-16, 2025
- Honors Thesis Tutorial (Undergraduate): 2007-09, 2017, 2020-23
- Econometrics (Masters): 2020-23
- Econometrics (Ph.D., 1st year): 2012-16, 2024-25
- Labor Economics (Ph.D., 2nd year): 2005, 2012-16
- Public Economics (Ph.D., 2nd year): 2017-18, 2020, 2023
- Applied Microeconometrics (Ph.D., 2nd year): 2006-2011, 2018, 2022

Ph.D. Thesis Supervision (as primary or co-primary advisor):

(date of completion, Ph.D. granting institution, initial placement)

- Jamie Hyder (2029 expected, JHU, TBA)
- Adam Edwards (2028 expected, JHU, TBA)
- John Green (2027 expected, JHU, TBA)
- Su Wang (2027 expected, JHU, TBA)
- Arjun Jain (2025, UW-Madison, Analysis Group)
- Qin Lin (2025, UW-Madison, Vienna University of Economics and Business)
- Cassi Kirkland (2025, UW-Madison, Cornerstone Research)
- Jiemin Xu (2025, UW-Madison, Jinan University)

- Jeremy Kirk (2024, UW-Madison, CNA)
- Sahber Ahmadi-Renani (2023, UW-Madison, Tehran Institute for Advanced Studies)
- Joel McMurry (2022, UW-Madison, Uber)
- Arpita Patnaik (2021, UW-Madison, Charles River)
- Sadegh Eshaghnia (2019, ASU, University of Chicago)
- Francesco Agostinelli (2018, ASU, University of Pennsylvania Economics)
- Morteza Saharkhiz (2018, ASU, IMPAQ)
- Sajad Vahedi (2017, ASU, IMPAQ)

Ph.D. Thesis Supervision (as member of committee):

(date of completion, Ph.D. granting institution)

- Gabriela de Oliveira Fuschini (2028 expected, NYU)
- Mark Drozd (2026 expected, JHU)
- Lois Miller (2024, UW-Madison)
- Elise Marifian (2024, UW-Madison)
- Adibah Abdulhadi (2022, UW-Madison)
- Joanna Venator (2021, UW-Madison)
- Nicolas Badaracco (2021, UW-Madison)
- Yu (Alan) Yang (2021, UW-Madison)
- Amrita Kulka (2020, UW-Madison)
- Ewout Verriest (2019, NYU)
- Shanke Zho (2019, UW-Madison)
- Carlos Felipe Yevenes (2018, UW-Madison)
- Hoyong Jung (2018, UW-Madison)
- Taehoon Kim (2017, UW-Madison)
- Adam Blandin (2016, ASU)
- Jessica Boccardo (2013, NYU)
- Maria Garibotti (2011, NYU)
- Bledi Taska (2011, NYU)
- Anja Sautmann (2010, NYU)
- Julia Schwenkenberg (2009, NYU)
- Elizabeth Potamites (2007, NYU)
- Luis Hall (2007, NYU)
- Giovanni Serio (2006, NYU)
- James Mabli (2006, NYU)
- Fernando Barbosa (2006, NYU)

Undergraduate Thesis Supervision:

(date of completion, undergraduate degree granting institution)

- Clarence Harley (2023, UW-Madison)
- Jacob Goss (2021, UW-Madison)
- Susan Jiao (2021, UW-Madison)
- Jonathan Kim (2018, UW-Madison)
- Brett Fischer (2015, ASU)
- Yoo Jin Lee (2011, NYU)
- Leah Clark (2010, NYU)
- Samantha Mak (2008, NYU)
- Zachary Saltzman (2008, NYU)
- Carl Nadler (2007, NYU)
- Mary Alexander (2007, NYU)
- Holly Cline (2006, NYU)

Reviewer

Journal Referee (Economics-General Interest):

Review of Economic Studies; Econometrica; Journal of European Economic Association; Journal of Political Economy; American Economic Review; European Economic Review; International Economic Review; Quarterly Journal of Economics; Quantitative Economics; Economics Letters

Journal Referee (Economics-Public, Labor, and Education):

Journal of Public Economics; Journal of Human Resources; Labour Economics; Education Finance and Policy; Economics of Education Review; Journal of Economic Inequality; Journal of Population Economics; Journal of Labor Economics; Journal of Human Capital; American Economic Journals: Applied Economics; American Economic Journals: Policy; Berkeley Electronic Press

Journal Referee (Economics-Econometrics, Statistics, Methods):

Journal of Econometrics; Computational Economics; Review of Economics and Statistics; Journal of Applied Econometrics; Review of Business and Economics Statistics

Journal Referee (Economics-Macroeconomics):

American Economic Journals: Macroeconomics; Review of Economic Dynamics

Journal Referee (Outside Economics):
Demography; American Educational Research Journal; Social Science Research

Grant Reviewer:
Economic Policy Institute; US-Israel Bi-national Science Foundation; National Science Foundation

Book Manuscript Reviewer:
Addison-Wesley

Conference Presentations and Discussions

(2006-2020)

- US Census Bureau Restricted Data Centers Conference
- New York State Economics Association Annual Conference
- American Educational Finance Association Annual Conference
- American Educational Research Association Annual Conference
- Econometric Society North American Summer Meeting
- Federal Reserve Bank Workshop on Quantitative Macroeconomics
- Society of Labor Economics Annual Meeting
- Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Research Meeting
- Econometric Society European Summer Meeting
- “Global Perspectives on Public and Private Investments in Children,” Collegio Carlo Alberto
- “Workshop on the Economics of Couples: Theory and Applications,” Université de Cergy-Pontoise
- “New Economics of the Family” Conference at the Milton Friedman Institute, University of Chicago
- “Parental and Public Investments and Child Outcomes,” Collegio Carlo Alberto
- National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute
- “Formation and Revision of Subjective Expectations,” Laval University
- American Economics Association Annual Meeting
- “Dynamic Policy Design with Human Capital,” Laboratory for Aggregate Economics and Finance
- “Workshops on Risk and Family Economics,” Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group and Institute for Fiscal Studies, University College London

- “Cowles Conference on Structural Empirical Microeconomics Models,” Yale University
- Association for Public Policy and Management, Fall Research Conference
- Southern Economics Association Annual Meeting
- “Workshop on Actors in the Child Development Process,” Collegio Carlo Alberto
- Barcelona Graduate School of Economics Summer Forum
- Wisconsin-La Crosse Economics of Education Conference
- Authors’ Conference, Journal of Political Economy, Special Edition on the Economics of Child Development

(2021)

- American Economics Association Annual Meeting
- Southern Economics Association Annual Meeting

(2022)

- “Rohit and Harvanit Kumar Conference on Early Childhood Development: Economic Theory and Data,” University of Chicago

(2023)

- “Triangle Applied Microeconomics Conference (TAMC),” North Carolina State University, September 22, Keynote Speaker
- “Human Capital Formation Over the Life-Cycle,” University of Rochester
- “Education, Labor Market Outcomes, and Inequality,” Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

(2024)

- “6th Annual Stockholm Uppsala Education Economics Workshop,” Stockholm School of Economics, Keynote Speaker

(2025)

- “International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education,” Calabria, Italy, June 15-17, Keynote Speaker

Seminar Presentations

(2006-2020)

City University of New York Graduate Center; University of Pennsylvania; New York University Center for Advanced Social Science Research;

Rochester University; Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Statistics Norway; University of Maryland-College Park; Boston College; Rutgers University-Newark; Ohio State University; University of Oslo; University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; Johns Hopkins University; Arizona State University; Clemson University; Duke University; Carnegie Mellon University; University of Pittsburgh; University of California-Los Angeles; Boston College; University of California-Irvine; Washington University-St. Louis; University of Michigan-Ann Arbor; University of Wisconsin-Madison; University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa; Brown University; University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign; Washington University-St. Louis; Rice University; Collegio Carlo Alberto; University of Virginia; University of Wisconsin-Madison; University of Western Ontario; University of Chicago; Duke University; University of Houston; University of Illinois-Chicago; University of Pennsylvania; Johns Hopkins University; University College London; Federal Reserve Bank of New York; University of Bristol; Iowa State University; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Cornell University; Yale University; Purdue University; Ohio State University; University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; University of California-Berkeley; University of Georgia; Texas A&M University; Toulouse School of Economics; Université de Montréal

(2021)

- University College London
- Michigan State University
- University of Zurich
- Banco de España
- Australian Health and Human Capital Economics Seminar

(2022)

- University of Chicago-Booth School of Business
- University of Chicago, Center for the Economics of Human Development
- University of Pennsylvania
- Johns Hopkins University

(2023)

- Carnegie Mellon University, Tepper School of Business
- George Washington University
- New York University

(2024)

- Stockholm School of Economics
- University of Stockholm, Department of Economics

(2025)

- New York University
- Georgetown University

(Scheduled)

- Washington University-St. Louis
- Yale University
- University of California-Los Angeles
- Simon Fraser University
- University of Maryland-College Park

Conference Organizer

- Co-Organizer, “Conference to Honor V. Joseph Hotz,” Duke University, September 8-9, 2023
- Co-Organizer, “Rohit and Harvanit Kumar Conference on Early Childhood Development: Economic Theory and Data,” University of Chicago, November 17-18, 2022
- Co-Organizer, “Advances in Policy Evaluation,” Arizona State University, February 19-20, 2016
- Program Committee, Econometric Society North American Winter Meetings, January 4-6, 2019
- Program Committee, Society of Labor Economics Annual Meeting, June 25-27, 2020

Service

(Professional)

- Advisory Group Member, Nuffield Home Visiting Project, 2019-
- Advisory Group Member, Chicago Home Visiting Partnership Project, 2022-

(NYU, 2026-)

- Long Term Strategic Plan Committee, Dept. of Economics, 2026-

(JHU)

- Recruiting Committee, Dept. of Economics, 2024-25
- Academic Grievance Committee, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, 2024-25

(UW-Madison)

- Interdisciplinary Training Program in Education Sciences Steering Committee, 2021-23
- Center for Demography and Ecology, Executive Committee, 2020-22
- Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education Research Committee (Fall Research Competition), 2018-20
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Dept. of Economics, 2021-(Co-chair 2022-23)
- Graduate Committee, Dept. of Economics, 2018-20
- Recruitment Committee, Dept. of Economics, 2016-18

(ASU)

- Graduate Studies Committee, Dept. of Economics, 2012-13
- Recruitment Committee, Dept. of Economics, 2013-16
- Personnel Committee, Dept. of Economics, 2015-16

(NYU, 2005-11)

- Junior Recruitment Committee, Dept. of Economics, 2006-07
- Ph.D. Admissions Committee, Dept. of Economics, 2006, 2011
- Computer Committee, Chair, Dept. of Economics, 2009-10
- Search Committee, Applied Statistician and Psychometrician Positions, NYU Steinhardt School of Education, 2008