

## Derek Wu

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### EMPLOYMENT AND AFFILIATIONS

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**University of Virginia, Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy** 2022 –  
Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Economics *Charlottesville, VA*  
Department of Economics (by courtesy)

**IZA Institute of Labor Economics**, Research Affiliate 2023 –

**Comprehensive Income Dataset Project**, Research Affiliate 2017 –

### EDUCATION

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**University of Chicago** 2015 – 2021  
Ph.D., Public Policy *Chicago, IL*  
Thesis: “*Essays on Poverty and Safety-Net Programs*”

**Princeton University** 2009 – 2013  
A.B., School of Public and International Affairs (*with honors*) *Princeton, NJ*

### PUBLICATIONS

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Meyer, Bruce D., Angela Wyse, Gillian Meyer, Alexa Grunwaldt, and **Derek Wu**. Forthcoming. “Unhoused and Mismeasured: The Accuracy of Surveys of Those Experiencing Homelessness.” *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings*.

**Wu, Derek** and Jonathan Zhang. Forthcoming. “Sliding into Safety Net Participation: A Unified Analysis Across Multiple Programs”. *National Tax Journal*.

Meyer, Bruce D., Nikolas Mittag, and **Derek Wu**. Forthcoming. “Race, Ethnicity, and Measurement Error”. In Akee, R., L. Katz, and M. Loewenstein (eds.), *Race, Ethnicity, and Economic Statistics for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. NBER Book Series.

Meyer, Bruce D., **Derek Wu**, Grace Finley, Patrick Langetieg, Carla Medalia, Mark Payne, and Alan Plumley. 2022. “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 Distribution and Mobility of Income and Wealth*, 459-498. 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*, 122: 345-350.

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

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“Certification and Recertification in Welfare Programs: What Happens When Automation Goes Wrong?” (with Bruce Meyer). NBER Working Paper No. 31437. October 2024. *Under Review*.

“Homelessness and the Persistence of Deprivation: Income, Employment and Safety Net Participation” (with Alexa Grunwaldt, Bruce Meyer, Gillian Meyer, and Angela Wyse). NBER Working Paper No. 32323. April 2024.

“Poverty in the United States” (with Bruce Meyer). March 2024.

“The Geography of Disadvantage: Implications for Poverty Measurement and Program Targeting” (with Brian Curran and Bruce Meyer). June 2023.

“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). NBER Working Paper No. 29366. March 2022.

“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.

## SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

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

“The Distribution of Income and Consumption Using Linked Data” (with Aaron Hong, Bruce Meyer, Connor Murphy, and James Sullivan)

“SNAP Targeting: Asset vs. Income Tests” (with Jeehoon Han)

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

“The Dynamics of Single Parenthood: New Evidence from Linked Survey and Administrative Data”  
(with Nikolas Mittag)

“Multiple Safety Net Program Participation: Incidence and Impacts from Reducing Administrative Burdens” (with Neil Cholli)

“Racial Disparities in Veterans’ Disability Compensation” (with David Silver and Jonathan Zhang)

## PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH

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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

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2025: ASSA Annual Meetings; Florida State University (scheduled)

2024: APPAM Fall Conference; ASSA Annual Meetings; George Mason University; Joint Statistical Meetings; NTA Annual Conference; NBER Summer Institute, CRIW; SOLE Annual Meeting; Williams College

2023: ASSA Annual Meetings; APPAM Fall Conference; Department of Health and Human Services; Monash University; NTA Annual Conference; SOLE Annual Meeting; WEA International Conference

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; RAND Corporation; University of Virginia, Batten School; U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis; SEA Annual Meeting; SOLE Annual Meeting; Washington Center for Equitable Growth Grantee Conference

2021: ASSA 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: ASSA Annual Meetings; AEFPP 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

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### University of Virginia

Research Methods & Data Analysis I (MPP) (4.8/5.0, 4.9/5.0, 4.9/5.0) 2022, 2023, 2024

### 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

## GRANTS

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PI, Russell Sage Foundation (\$35,000) 2025-26  
*Multiple Safety Net Program Participation: Incidence and Impacts from Reducing Administrative Burdens*

PI, Bankard Fund for Political Economy (\$24,584) 2025-26  
*Multiple Safety Net Program Participation: Incidence and Impacts from Reducing Administrative Burdens*

Co-PI, Smith Richardson Foundation (\$249,999) 2024-26  
*The Puzzling Decline of Male Employment*

PI, Bankard Fund for Political Economy (\$30,000) 2024-25  
*The Incidence and Effects of Participating in Mult. Progs.: Empirical Evidence from Virginia's Safety Net*

PI, Bankard Fund for Political Economy (\$35,000) 2023-24

*Using Big Data to Analyze Dynamic Patterns in Income, Poverty, and the Effects of Government Programs*

PI, Washington Center for Equitable Growth (\$15,000) 2020-22  
*The Impacts of Welfare Cuts on Well-Being During the Great Recession: Evidence from Linked U.S. Administrative and Survey Data*

PI, Dept. of Health and Human Services Behavioral Interventions Scholars (\$25,000) 2020-22  
*The Effects of Automating Welfare Services on Program Enrollment and Well-Being: Evidence from Indiana*

**AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**


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National Tax Association Dissertation Prize, Finalist	2022
Heinz Dissertation Award, Honorable Mention	2022
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	2012
Pearson Prize for Higher Education, National Fellow	2010
Coca-Cola National Scholar	2009
United States Senate Youth Program, Maryland Delegate	2008

**PRIOR EXPERIENCE**


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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	2013 – 2015
Summer Intern, White House Council of Economic Advisers	2012
Intern & Research Fellow, National Council on Teacher Quality	2010, 2011
Student Member, Maryland State Board of Education	2008 – 2009

**STUDENT ADVISING**


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Committee Member: Sasha Ruby (PhD)	Expected 2025
Thesis Advisor: Daniel Thomas (Master's)	2024

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & ACTIVITIES****Referee**

*American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review: Insights, American Educational Research Journal, Department of Health and Human Services (Behavioral Interventions Scholars), Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics, Journal of Public Economics, National Science Foundation, National Tax Journal, Quarterly Journal of Economics*

### Conference Activities

Discussant: ASSA (2024), APPAM (2022, 2023), Atlanta PPCW (2024), NTA (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024), SEA (2021, 2024), WEAI (2018, 2023), ZEW Mannheim (2021)  
Chair: ASSA (2024, 2025), JSM (2024), NTA (2023, 2024), SOLE (2023)  
Session Organizer: ASSA (2024), JSM (2024), NTA (2022, 2023), FCSM (2022)

### Professional Memberships

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

### University of Virginia

Planning Committee, MS in Data Science and Public Policy	2024
Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Economics	2024
Batten School Executive Committee, Member	2023 – 2024
Batten School Faculty Research Seminar Series, Organizer	2023 – 2024
Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Economics	2023

### Other

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 (selected)

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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, WalletHub, Washington Monthly, Washington Post, Yahoo! Finance

### PERSONAL

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Citizenship: United States of America  
Languages: English (native), Mandarin Chinese (oral fluency), Spanish (proficient)