

Lance R. Wescher

Department of Economics &
Community Development
Covenant College
Lookout Mountain, GA 30750

Telephone: 706-419-1803
wescher@covenant.edu
citizenship: USA

Education

University of Notre Dame, Ph.D. Economics August 2007

Dissertation: *Tax Rates and Employer-Provided Health Insurance: Who Responds and How?*

University of Notre Dame, M.A. Economics August 2003

Wheaton College (IL), B.A. Economics, *magna cum laude*, Economics Honors, 1998

Ph.D. Advisors

Teresa Ghilarducci, Ph.D.

Committee:

Kajal Mukhopadhyay, Ph.D., James X. Sullivan, Ph.D., John Turner, Ph.D.

Primary Research Fields

Primary: Labor Economics

Secondary: Health Economics, Finance, Public Policy

Teaching Experience:

Covenant College:

- Principles of Microeconomics
- Principles of Macroeconomics
- Intermediate Macroeconomics
- Intermediate Microeconomics
- U.S. Microeconomic Development
- U.S. Urban Poverty
- History of Economic Thought
- Public Finance
- Behavioral Finance
- Global Trends
- Economics Research
- Senior Capstone
- Econometrics
- Health Economics
- Industrial Organization
- The Christian Mind
- Economics & Analytics of Sports
- Money, Banking & Financial Markets
- Math for Economics

Teaching Experience (cont.):

Wheaton College: Principles of Microeconomics
Principles of Macroeconomics
University of Notre Dame: Game Theory, Teaching Assistant for Kali Rath
Statistics, Teaching Assistant for Kajal
Mukhopadhyay

Teaching Related Experience

2003-2004 Tutor for Intermediate Microeconomics, University of Notre Dame
Fall 2002 Principles of Economics, Assisted in Curriculum Development for
Thomas Swartz, University of Notre Dame
Fall 2002 Math for Economics, Developed Curriculum for Kali Rath,
University of Notre Dame

Committees/Department Work

Covenant College Athletics Committee
Covenant College Benefits Committee
Covenant College Wellness Committee
Covenant College Fiduciary Committee
Covenant College Graduate Council
Covenant College Academic Facilities Planning Committee
Covenant College Providence College Acquisition Ad Hoc Committee
Covenant College Curriculum Committee
Faculty Representative to the Finance Committee and Advancement
Committee
Chair: Department of Economics and Community Development
Faculty Moderator
Advisor/Coach – Covenant College Triathlon Club
Advisor/Coach – Covenant College Boxing Club
Advisor – Economics Club

Software Proficiency

SAS, Stata, Eviews, Excel, RapidMiner

Employment History

2006-Present Covenant College
-Professor in Economics
2006-Present Chalmers Center for Economics Development
-U.S. Economic Development Specialist
2005-2006 Wheaton College
-Assistant Professor in Economics
2003-2005 Higgins Labor Research Center

- Primary Labor Analyst for Massachusetts Financial Services Union
Standard Mutual Fund
- 1999-2001 Hewitt Associates
 - Pension Formula Consultant & Project Manager
 - Course Instructor
 - Assisted in New-Hire Screening and Interviewing
- 1998-1999 Wells Fargo and Company
 - Credit Manager in Financial Services Division
 - District New Employee of the Year 1998
 - Regional Employee of First Quarter 1999

Memberships

- Higgins Labor Research Center – Member
- Association of Christian Economists – Member
- Health Economics Research Organization – Member
- American Economics Association – Member
- Christian Community Development Association
- Journal *Faith & Economics* – Managing Editor

Grants, Writings & Presentations

- Book Review of *Men Without Work* in *Faith and Economics*
- “Minimum Wages, Employment and College Enrollment” in *The American Economist* July 2018
- Book Review of *Mathematics for Social Scientists* in *The Journal of Sociology and Christianity* Spring 2018
- “An Empirical Assessment of the Effects of Cohort Training and Follow-Up on the Outcomes of Short-Term Missions” in *The Journal of Sociology and Christianity* Spring 2017
- Book Review of *Seeking the City* in *Faith and Economics* Fall 2015
- Radio Interview on the state of the US Economy for Haven Ministries, October 2011
- “Financial Education and Assets in Community Development” presented at the Annual Conference of the Christian Community Development Association Fall 2011
- “The Promise and Challenges of Youth Financial Education” presented at What's Next? National Youth Development Conference, August, 2011.
- “Microfinance and Poverty” presented at the Lausanne National Conference on World Evangelism, April, 2011
- “Tax Policy and Health Insurance Response” presented at the ACE workshop of the ASSA annual conference, January, 2011
- Presentation: Christian Community Development Association Fall 2010
- “The Good and Bad of High Oil Prices” in *Money Matters*, August 2008.

- “Checking in on the Tax Rebate” in *Money Matters*, July 2008.
- “Examining a Financial Market Crisis” in *Money Matters*, March 2008.
- “Understanding Mortgage Markets” in *Money Matters*, February 2008.
- “Global Stakes: Globalization’s Challenges and Opportunities for Stakeholder Theory” in *Executive Ethics*, 2008 Information Age Publishing.
- William Thomas Kirby Grant for Retirement Research – winner 2005-2006
- William Thomas Kirby Grant for Retirement Research – winner 2004-2005
- Empowering the Poor through Asset Creation, Job Training and Housing – presented at Faith and Philanthropy Summit June, 2007
- *Pensions and Health Insurance in Low Wage Labor Markets* with Teresa Ghilarducci and Mary Lee – presented at the IRRA session of the 2005 ASSA Conference
- Comments on Letting Older Workers Work in *Work Options for Mature Americans* – 2007 University of Notre Dame Press
- Research Assistant – *Secondary School Choice and Later Life Outcomes* – Ernest Bartell and T.R. Swartz 2001-2002
- Assistant Editor – *Work Options for Mature Americans* – John Turner and Teresa Ghilarducci editors
- Conference Coordinator – *The Future of Social Security*. Scheduled, organized and presented along with other academics, the Social Security Administration and AARP 2005
- Researcher – *Health Care and the Uninsured in St. Joseph County, IN*. Project coordinating local hospitals and clinics with the St. Joseph County Health Department to analyze the delivery of health care to low income individuals in the community.

Works in Progress

- How Faithful are Religious Investors – with Evan Weir and Austin Wismer
- Christian Stewardship in the World of ESG – with Chris Musser

Church and Community

- Elder – St. Elmo Presbyterian Church
- Chair – Pastoral Search Committee, St. Elmo Presbyterian Church
- Regular Presenter on Economics – Summit Ministries
- Co-Lead Researcher – Community Needs Assessment Hamilton County Office of Youth and Family Development
- CRA Committee Member – City of Chattanooga Office of Family Empowerment
- Co-Lead Researcher – Community Assessment for The Bethlehem Center
- Advisor (former board member) – Hope for the Inner City – a Christian Community Development organization in Chattanooga.

- Contributor to the Financial Management curriculum *Faith and Finances* produced by the Chalmers Center for Economic Development.
- Co-originator and ongoing consultant with Asset-Driven Development of Chattanooga, a non-profit community development organization promoting Individual Development Accounts and increased financial inclusion among the poor in Chattanooga.
- Volunteer contributor and consultant to CreateHere, a creative community development organization in Chattanooga. Assisted in the implementation and use of results of the “Stand” campaign.
- Financial Freedom – Coordinator and speaker for Christian ministry teaching personal finance. Led classes ranging from small groups up to 100 members.
- Youth Volunteer – Volunteer for *Lifeline* high school ministry.
- Stone Soup Community – Consulted local agency working with low-income community members to establish sound financial principles and participate in community aid programs.
- Public Aid Delivering Shelter (PADS) – Student assistant to the director of a series of homeless shelters in the Western suburbs of Chicago.