

Stephen D. O’Connell

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Last Updated: 2025-02-06

CURRENT	Emory University, Department of Economics	
	Associate Professor	Sep 2022 - Present
	Assistant Professor	Sep 2018 - Aug 2022
	University of Chicago, Becker-Friedman Institute	
	Visiting Senior Research Associate	Jan 2025 - May 2025
PREVIOUS	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Economics	
	Postdoctoral Fellow	Jul 2016 - Jun 2018
EDUCATION	The Graduate Center at City University of New York	
	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics	Jun 2016
	Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in Economics	Sep 2013
	Boston College	
	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Economics	May 2007
AFFILIATIONS	JPAL/IPA Displaced Livelihoods Initiative	Aug 2023 - Present
	Invited Researcher	
	Households in Conflict Network	Apr 2020 - Present
	Affiliate	
	IZA Institute of Labor Economics	Dec 2015 - present
	Research Affiliate	
	Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá	Summer 2016
	Visiting Faculty	

RESEARCH **ONGOING PROJECTS**

Andrea Caffisch, Daniel Masterson, Stephen D. O’Connell, and Julia Smith-Omomo, “From Displacement to Resilience: Economic Recovery Aid and Social Cohesion in Post-War Iraq,” Field experiment; Baseline collected June 2024. Partners: IOM Iraq. Funding: JPAL/IPA Displaced Livelihoods Initiative \$227,885 (2024-2026); National Science Foundation SES 2417905/2417906 \$216,279 (2024-2026). Midline data collection starting February 2025.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Jackson Schneider and Stephen D. O’Connell, “Gender disparities in the adequacy of food-based assistance programs: Evidence from Syrian refugee households in Lebanon,” 2025. *World Development*.

Ryan Brown, Hani Mansour, Stephen D. O’Connell, and James Reeves, “Gender Differences in Political Career Progression,” 2025. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.

Chris Karpowitz, Stephen D. O’Connell, Jessica Preece, and Olga Stoddard, “Strength in numbers? Gender composition, leadership, and women’s influence in teams,” 2024. *Journal of Political Economy*.

Onur Altındağ, Stephen D. O’Connell, and Rim Achour, “Geographic poverty targeting in social protection programs: Evidence from a nationwide policy experiment,” Working paper, under review. 2024.

Stephen D. O’Connell and Lucas F. Mation, “Tell us what you need: Matching public job training to local skill demand with employers’ input,” 2023.

Onur Altındağ, Stephen D. O’Connell, “The short-lived effects of unconditional cash transfers to refugees,” 2022. *Journal of Development Economics*. (Original full-length working paper: “Unconditional cash-based assistance to the poor: What do at-scale programs achieve?,” 2021.)

Josh McCrain, Stephen D. O’Connell, “Experience, institutions, and candidate emergence: The political career returns to state legislative service,” 2022. *Political Science Research and Methods*.

Ryan Brown, Hani Mansour, Stephen D. O’Connell, “Does local female political representation empower women to run for higher office? Evidence from state and national legislatures in India,” 2022. *World Bank Economic Review*.

Onur Altındağ, Stephen D. O’Connell, Aytug Sasmaz, Zeynep Balcioglu, Paola Cadoni, Matilda Jerneck, Aimee Kunze Foong, “Targeting humanitarian aid using administrative data: model design and validation,” 2021. *Journal of Development Economics*.

Kevin Croke, Andualem Mengistu, Stephen D. O’Connell, and Kibrom Tafere, “The Impact of Ethiopia’s Health Facility Construction Campaign on Health Service Utilization and Outcomes: A Secondary Analysis of Spatially-Linked Survey and Facility Location Data,” 2020. *BMJ Global Health*.

Stephen D. O’Connell, “Can quotas increase the supply of candidates for higher-level positions? Evidence from local government in India,” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, vol. 102, no. 2, pp. 65-78, 2020.

Stephen D. O’Connell, “Political inclusion and educational investment: Estimates from a national policy experiment in India,” *Journal of Development Economics*, vol. 135, pp. 478-487, 2018.

Hunt Allcott, Allan Collard-Wexler, and Stephen D. O’Connell, “How Do Electricity Shortages Affect Industry? Evidence from India,” *American Economic Review*, vol. 106, no. 3, pp. 587–624, 2016.

Klaus Desmet, Ejaz Ghani, Stephen D. O’Connell and Esteban Rossi-Hansberg, “The Spatial Development of India,” *Journal of Regional Science*, vol. 55, no. 1, pp. 10–30, 2015.

Ejaz Ghani, William R. Kerr, and Stephen D. O’Connell, “Political Reservations and Women’s Entrepreneurship in India,” *Journal of Development Economics*, vol. 108, pp. 138–153, 2014.

Ejaz Ghani, William R. Kerr, and Stephen D. O’Connell, “Local Industrial Structures and Female Entrepreneurship in India,” *Journal of Economic Geography*, vol. 13, no. 6, pp. 929–964, 2013.

Ejaz Ghani, William R. Kerr, and Stephen D. O’Connell, “Spatial Determinants of Entrepreneurship in India,” *Regional Studies*, vol. 48, no. 6, 2013 (special issue).

**OTHER
RESEARCH**

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO TEACHING AND PEDAGOGY IN
HIGHER EDUCATION**

David Jaeger et al. "The Global COVID-19 Student Survey: First wave results," *COVID Economics* 79, 2021.

Stephen D. O'Connell and Guido Lang, "Can Personalized Nudges Improve Learning in Hybrid Classes? Experimental Evidence From an Introductory Undergraduate Course," *Journal of Research on Technology in Education* 50(2): 105-119, 2018.

Theodore Joyce, Dahlia Remler, David Jaeger, Onur Altındağ, Stephen D. O'Connell, and Sean Crockett, "On Measuring and Reducing Selection Bias with a Quasi-Doubly Randomized Preference Trial," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, vol. 36, no. 2, pp. 438-459, 2017.

Theodore J. Joyce, Sean Crockett, David A. Jaeger, Onur Altındağ and Stephen D. O'Connell, "Does Classroom Time Matter?" *Economics of Education Review*, vol. 46 pp. 64-77, 2015.

TEACHING

Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA

Honors Thesis Seminar

Econometrics I

Causal Inference/Policy Analysis

Undergraduate Research in Economics

Labor Economics (Graduate)

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Bogotá, D.C., Colombia

Behavioral Economics

Jun 2016

Hunter College, City University of New York, New York, NY, USA

Econometrics I

Aug 2011 – May 2014

Economic Development

Aug 2012 – Dec 2012

Advisor, Senior Honors Thesis (2 students)

Jan 2013 – May 2013

**STUDENT
MENTORING**

College Research Mentorship Programs

SIRE

2018 - 2019: Belicia Rodriguez

CLSS

2018 - 2019: Andrew Kliewer

SURE

Summer 2021: Nicholas Skelley

Economics Dept. Honors Program

Since 2018

Thesis Advisor

2018 - 2019: Reiko Laski. Placement: FRB of Richmond.

2019 - 2020: Miaomiao Zhang. Placement: HBS Strategy Predoc.

2020 - 2021: Junaid Ahmed. Placement: Georgia Tech Masters in Computer Science.

2021 - 2022: Raoul Dubey. NERA Economic Consulting.

2022 - 2023: Jackson Schneider. Placement: LSE MSc in Development Studies.

2024 - 2025: Tianqi Zhang; Ettan Patel. In progress.

Committee member

2018 - 2019: Lucy Hansen, Claudia Hurowitz
2019 - 2020: Andrew Kliewer (Pol. Sci.), Raya Machaca
2020 - 2021: Jasmine Cui, Benjamin Weiner
2021 - 2022: Angela Choksi, Nicholas Skelley
2022 - 2023: Matthew Angelo Fernandez Joesoep, Steven Luo, Jackson Pentz
2023 - 2024: Harper Wang, Elaine Han
2024 - 2025: David Lee (Pol. Sci.)

Economics Dept. Ph.D. Program

Advisor/Dissertation Chair

Since 2024: Mohammad Fidakar.

Since 2023: Guido Romero.

Dissertation Committee Member

2020-2022: Kaylyn Sanbower “Essays on the Effects of Information Disclosure in Hospital Markets.” Placement: Department of Justice.

2020-2022: Sam Wunderly, “The Relationships Between Right-to-Work Laws, Worker Health, and the Economy.” Placement: Georgia Tech Dept. of Economics.

**COLLEGE/
DEPARTMENT
SERVICE**

Economics Dept. Honors Program

Coordinator

Aug 2018 - Present

Economics Dept., Undergraduate Research

Director

Aug 2020 - Present

Economics Dept. Social Media Committee

Appointed Member

Spring 2019 - Spring 2021

Emory College Honors Program Standing Committee

Elected Member

Fall 2019 - Spring 2021, Ran for reelection Spring 2021

Emory University School of Law - Center for Law and Social Sciences

Invited Board Member

Spring 2020 - Present

**PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE**

Referee: Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economics and Statistics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, European Economic Review, Journal of Development Economics, World Development, Journal of Public Economics, Economics of Education Review, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Management Science, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Feminist Economics, Journal of Regional Science, Journal of Economic Geography*, Regional Studies, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Economic Education, Spatial Economic Analysis. Other review: 3ie grant review, NSF SBS (Economics) Grant Review, World Bank KCP Program Grant Review, World Bank Development Impact/i2i Grant Program, DFID-IZA Growth in Labor Markets Research Grant Program, Oxford University Press.

**GRANTS
& AWARDS**

- National Science Foundation SES 2417905/2417906, \$216,279 (2024-2026) for “*From Displacement to Resilience: Aid, Economic Recovery, and Social Cohesion in Post-War Iraq*”
- JPAL/IPA Displaced Livelihoods Initiative, \$227,885 for “*From Displacement to Resilience: Aid, Economic Recovery, and Social Cohesion in Post-War Iraq*” (co-PI with Andrea Caflisch, Daniel Masterson, and Julia Smith-Omomo.)
- Emory University Research Committee (URC) Halle Institute for Global Research Award, 2024-2025: \$30,000, for “*From Displacement to Resilience: Aid, Economic Recovery, and Social Cohesion in Post-War Iraq*”
- International Growth Centre 2024-25: GBP15,151 for “The impact of phasing out of the cash assistance on refugees’ well-being.”
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2018-2023: \$693,655, for “*Design and Evaluation of Targeted Humanitarian Cash Transfers*” (Co-PI with Onur Altındağ.)
- Russell Sage Foundation, 2021-2022: \$34,222, for “*Leadership Structure, Group Gender Composition, and Women’s Influence in Groups: A Field Experiment*”
- Emory University Research Committee (URC) Halle Institute for Global Research Award, 2021-2022: \$28,824, for “*Ethnic Diversity, Economic Integration of Refugees, and Firm Behavior: Insights from a field study in Southeastern Turkey*”
- Emory PERS Grant, 2019-2020: \$8,500
- The World Bank/ComPEL, \$25,000. Co-PI with Andreas Menzel (CERGE-EI). April 2017.
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program–2012 Honorable Mention
- World Bank 2012 Finance and Private Sector Development (FPD) Academy Award: “Local Industrial Structures and Female Entrepreneurship in India”
- Chancellor’s Fellowship, City University of New York, 2010-2015.

**OTHER WORK
EXPERIENCE**

The World Bank , Washington, DC, USA	
Lead Specialist/Principal Investigator (occasional)	May 2016 – Jun 2018
Consultant (occasional)	Jan 2010 – May 2016
Compass-Lexecon , Washington, DC, USA	
Analyst	Jun 2007 – Jan 2010

LANGUAGES

English: native; Spanish: conversational (speaking, reading, writing).