



VCU

Department of Economics Overview for Faculty Search Candidates

The Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Economics is a welcoming and collegial community. As a faculty, we enjoy eating lunch together, discussing current events, collaborating and engaging in friendly debate.

We offer an M.A. in Economics, B.S. in Economics (with students in both the College of Humanities & Sciences and School of Business) and a minor. Our students are active in student organizations and the College Fed Challenge, making national finals this year.

Our internationally recognized faculty has received research funding from a myriad of organizations, including the National Science Foundation and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Research highlights include our relationship with The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, as well as our Experimental Lab, in operation since 1986.

About Richmond

VCU is located in the heart of [Richmond, Virginia](#), a diverse and vibrant city which is consistently ranked among the best places to live and work.

- Top 10 Trendiest U.S. Cities That You Can Still Afford to Buy In – ([Realtor.com, 2016](#))
- No. 3 best place in the world to travel to ([Travel + Leisure, 2016](#))
- One of the top 20 places to start a business ([CNBC, 2016](#))
- A top 10 dining destination for international food travel ([National Geographic, 2016](#))
- One of the 10 best cities to relocate to in the U.S. ([Huffington Post, 2015](#))
- Home to 10 Fortune 1000 companies

About VCU and the VCU School of Business

As the premier urban, public research university in the state, Virginia Commonwealth University's mission is to advance knowledge and student success. As a School of Business, we're focused on developing world-ready business leaders. Producing game-changing research. Fueling ideas with purpose. Read more in our [EPIC Strategic Plan](#).



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Econ faculty bios

For full profiles including photos and research details, please see our [online directory](#).

- **Dr. Adam Blandin** joined VCU as an assistant professor of Economics in 2016. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Arizona State in 2016. His research interests are at the intersection of macroeconomics and labor economics. Much of his current work investigates the sources of earnings differences across individuals, with an emphasis on the role of human capital. He has published in *The Journal of Economic Dynamics & Control* and *Economic Theory*.
- **Dr. Caleb Cox** joined VCU as an assistant professor of Economics in 2015. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from The Ohio State University in 2013, and previously worked at Durham University in the UK from 2013 to 2015. His research uses laboratory experiments and theory to study strategic behavior, with a particular focus on cooperation and the voluntary provision of public goods. Much of his recent work uses content analysis of communication between laboratory participants to study strategic thinking. He has published in peer-reviewed journals such as the *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *Journal of Economic Psychology*, and *Economic Theory*.
- **Dr. Douglas Davis** is an industrial organization economist who specializes in the use of laboratory methods to investigate the predictive properties of economic models. Once novel, the use of laboratory tools has become a standard method in economics for examining the behavioral relevance of both policy models as well as standard assumptions regarding human choice and decision-making. Prior to joining the faculty in 1987, Professor Davis worked at the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. Perhaps because of his early professional experience with antitrust issues, he has focused for many years on issues pertaining to antitrust, such as collusion, market power and the predictive properties of models used by antitrust authorities to anticipate socially undesirable consolidations between firms. More recently Professor Davis, in collaboration with his colleagues in and outside the economics department, has focused more on issues pertaining to financial market regulation.

Professor Davis has published nearly 60 refereed papers, and is a coauthor of *Experimental Economics* (Princeton UP), the first systematic treatment of the burgeoning area of experimental economics. His work has been supported nearly continuously since 1989 by the National Science Foundation and other Federal agencies.



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- **Dr. Linda Fernandez** is associate professor of Environmental and Resource Economics with a joint appointment in both the Economics Dept. and Center for Environmental Studies. Some of her research has ties to public health as it has involved studying economic incentives to improve environmental quality when air and water pollution result in morbidity and mortality effects. Some of her publications and research have been used at state and federal levels of governance for policymaking. The range of topics for analysis includes energy, transportation, international trade policy and the environment, cross-media (air, water, land) resource protection, and transboundary biodiversity management through invasive species prevention in traded products, maritime shipping and habitat protection.
- **Dr. David Harless** received his Ph.D. in Economics from Indiana University in 1988. He is an applied cross-sectional and panel data econometrician whose research has been multidisciplinary, having enjoyed long-standing collaborations with researchers from nursing, health services research, and accounting. A major research focus is hospital quality, especially as related to the question of the impact of staffing on quality of care and financial performance. He has just completed work as a collaborating investigator on an NIH grant to study Medicare Accountable Care Organizations. Recent publications appear in journals such as *Health Services Research*, *Medical Care*, and *Medical Care Research and Review*. Another research interest is motor vehicle safety.
- **Dr. Chris Herrington** received his Ph.D. in Economics from Arizona State University in 2013, prior to which he worked as a research analyst in the Federal Reserve Banks of Minneapolis and Richmond. His research interests are in macroeconomics, growth and development, and labor, with particular emphasis on human capital, education, and intergenerational linkages. His current projects examine the role of family background for college attendance and completion trends, both over the very long run and for more recent cohorts. His work has been published in *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* and *Review of Economic Dynamics*.
- **Dr. Oleg Korenok** received his Ph.D. in Economics from Rutgers University in 2005. His research interests are in experimental macroeconomics, behavioral economics, and experimental finance. Currently, his research focuses on interbank markets and charitable giving. Prior research interests include inflation and prices, tacit collusion, cooperation, altruism, and policy interventions in financial markets. His work has been published in a variety of peer reviewed journals such as *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *Experimental Economics*, *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*, *Journal of Public Economics* and *Journal of Monetary Economics*.



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- **Dr. Ioannis Kospentaris** joined VCU as an assistant professor of Economics in 2018. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2018. His research interests are in Macroeconomics, Labor Economics, and Search and Matching. Much of his current work investigates the sources of differences in job-finding prospects of long-term unemployed workers, with an emphasis on the role of skill loss and search effort. His other projects focus on the workings of OTC markets, as well as the speed of worker reallocation over the business cycle.
- **Dr. Jeffrey Lacker** received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1984. His current research relates to the history of financial crises and central bank policy. Prior to joining the faculty in 2018, he worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond for 28 years, including over 12 years as president and CEO. In that role, he participated in meetings of the Federal Open Market Committee, the monetary policy arm of the Federal Reserve. Past research has focused on monetary economics, banking and financial intermediation, and payment economics, and has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals, including *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, *The Cato Journal*, *Review of Economic Dynamics*, *Economic Theory*, *Journal of Financial Intermediation*, and the *Carnegie-Rochester Conference Series on Public Policy*.
- **Dr. John Lightle** received his Ph.D. in Economics from the Ohio State University in 2008. His research interests are in experimental economics, behavioral economics, applied microeconomic theory, and experimental finance. Currently, his research focuses on interbank markets, economic contests, positive reciprocity in the workplace, and non-standard markets or pricing mechanisms. His work has been published in journals including *Management Science*, *Experimental Economics*, *Labour Economics*, *Journal of Economics and Management Strategy*, and *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*.
- **Dr. Edward Millner** received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1983. His research interests are in behavioral economics and philanthropy. His current research focuses on how feelings of ownership influence giving to and taking from other people. His work has been published in the *Rand Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Experimental Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Economic Psychology*, and the *Journal of Public Economics*. He served as the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the School of Business for 5 years and Chairman of the Department of Economics for 14 years.



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- **Dr. Carol Scotese** received her Ph.D. from Penn State University. She is a macroeconomist with research interests in economic growth and macro-labor. She has studied growth issues related to fertility, education and financial factors and has current research interests on the wage distribution impact of changing skill demand. Her research has been published in *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Journal of Population Economics* and other outlets.
- **Dr. Leslie S. Stratton** received her Ph.D. in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1989. She is an applied econometrician working primarily in the labor economics field. Her research has centered on the time allocation decisions of individuals and households. As such she has explored intrahousehold time allocation decisions, marital wage differentials, labor supply decisions, and post-secondary enrollment patterns. Her research has been published in such journals as the *Journal of Population Economics*, the *Review of Economics of the Household*, *Economica*, and *Economics of Education Review* and has a substantial international component. She teaches labor economics and econometrics at both the graduate and the undergraduate level and is currently the department chair.

Department of Economics

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