

**Randall Reback**  
Professor of Economics  
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## Education

- University of Michigan; Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Ph.D. in Economics, 2003. Dissertation Adviser: Julie Berry Cullen.  
Dissertation Title: “Public Finance in General Equilibrium: The Case of Education”  
M.A. in Economics, 2000.
- Stanford University; Stanford, California  
M.A. in Social Science Research in Education, 1997.  
B.A. with Honors in Economics, 1997.

## Professional Experience in Higher Education

Barnard College, *Professor of Economics*, July 2017-present  
Barnard College, *Chair of Economics Department*, July 2020- 2023  
Barnard College, *Tow Associate Professor of Economics*, July 2016-June 2017  
Barnard College, Department of Economics, *Associate Professor*, July 2011-June 2016  
Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, *Faculty Member*, December 2012-present  
Northwestern University, Institute for Policy Research, *Visiting Scholar*, Sept 2012-May 2013  
Columbia University Population Research Center, *Faculty Member*, July 2011-present  
Barnard College, Department of Economics, Assistant Professor, July 2003-June 2011

## Professional Experience in Elementary Education

Ravenswood Public School District, East Palo Alto, CA. *Fifth Grade Teacher*, 1997-98.

## Academic and Professional Honors

- *Education Finance and Policy*, MIT Press, Editor, July 2019-2023
- *CesIFO Research Network Fellow*, *Economics of Education Research Group*, 2015-present
- Mental Health Services Research New Investigator Award, (National Institute of Mental Health), 2005.
- American Education Finance Association, Jean Flanigan Outstanding Dissertation Award, 2005.
- National Center for Childhood Health and Human Development, Graduate Student Fellowship, ‘99-‘03.
- Population Studies Center Research Fellowship, University of Michigan, ‘99-‘03.
- University of Michigan, Rackham Dissertation Fellowship, Fall 2002.
- Firestone Medal for Best Undergraduate Economics Thesis, Stanford University, 1997.
- Stanford-in-Government Fellow, U.S. Department of Education, 1996.

**Courses Taught** *American Well-being; Economics of Education; Child Health, Behavior, and Learning; Econometrics; Statistics for Economics; Spatial Analysis in Urban Economics; Intergenerational Equity and Domestic Economic Policy; Introduction to Microeconomics; Economics Senior Thesis*

## Graduate Dissertation Committees

Ying Xu (2024); Daniel Sparks (2023); “Rachel” Yang Zhou (2022); Theo Pippins (2021); Sabine Zander (2021); Takeshi Yanagiura (2020); Josefa Aguirre-Brautigam (2019); Yuxin Lin (2019); Eric Chan (2018); Jennifer Sallman (2018); Elizabeth Kopko (2017); Jaunelle Pratt-Williams (2016); Elizabeth Davidson (Dissertation Sponsor, 2016); Veronica Minaya (2016); Robert Shand (2015); Eri Hoshino (2015); Parita Suaphan (2014); Charles Ogundimu (2014); Kristin Bucceri (2013); Peter Crosta (2013); Michelle Hodara (2012); Chad D’Entremont (2012); Mina

Dadgar (2012); Maham Mela (2012); Yu Zhang (2011); Amrit Thapa (2011); Sung-woo Cho (2010), Evan Borkum (2010), Yinghua He (2010); Stefanie Mischner (2010); Suguru Mizunoya (2009); Joshua Goodman (2009); Heather L. Schwartz (2009); Moumié Maoulidi (2009); Dongshu Ou (2008); Milagros Nores (2006); Saeyun Lee (2006); Laila Haider (2004).

## **Publications**

- “Fifty Ways to Leave a Child Behind: Idiosyncrasies and Discrepancies in States’ Implementation of *NCLB*” (w/ Elizabeth Davidson & Jonah Rockoff & Heather Schwartz). *Educational Researcher* 44(6), 2015.
- “Buying Their Votes? A Study of Local Tax-Price Discrimination,” *Economic Inquiry* 53(3), 2015.
- “Under Pressure: Job Security, Resource Allocation, and Productivity in Schools under *NCLB*” (w/ Jonah Rockoff and Heather L. Schwartz). *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 6(3), August 2014.
- “True for Your School? How Changing Reputations Alter Demand for Selective U.S. Colleges.” (w/ Molly Alter). *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* 36(1), March 2014.
- “The Fiscal Impacts of Charter Schools: Lessons from New York” (w/ Robert Bifulco), *Education Finance and Policy* 9(1), Winter 2014.
- “Jockeying for Position: Strategic High School Choice under Texas’ Top Ten Percent Rule” (w/ Julie Cullen & Mark Long), *Journal of Public Economics* 97, January 2013.
- “Mobility, Housing Markets, and Schools: Estimating the Effects of Interdistrict Choice Programs” (w/ Eric Brunner & Sung-woo Cho), *Journal of Public Economics* 96, August 2012.
- “Schools’ Mental Health Services and Young Children’s Emotions, Behavior, and Learning,” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 29(4), Autumn 2010.
- “Noninstructional Spending Improves Noncognitive Outcomes: Discontinuity Evidence from a Unique Elementary School Counselor Financing System,” *Education Finance & Policy* 5(2), 2010.
- “Demand (and Supply) in an Inter-district Public School Choice Program,” *Economics of Education Review* 27(4), August 2008, pp. 402-416.
- “Teaching to the Rating: School Accountability and the Distribution of Student Achievement,” *Journal of Public Economics* 92, June 2008, pp. 1394-1415.
- “Tinkering Toward Accolades: School Gaming under a Performance Accountability System.”, (with Julie Berry Cullen). Chapter 1, *Advances in Applied Microeconomics*, vol. 14, edited by Timothy J. Gronberg & Dennis W. Jansen, Elsevier, 2006.
- “Entry Costs and the Supply of Public School Teachers.” *Education Finance & Policy* 1(2), Spring 2006, pp. 247-265.
- “House Prices and the Provision of Public Services: Capitalization under School Choice Programs.” *Journal of Urban Economics* 57(2), March 2005, pp. 275-301.
- “The Impact of College Course Offerings on the Supply of Academically Talented Public School Teachers.” *Journal of Econometrics* 121, July 2004, pp. 377-404.

## **Non-Peer-Reviewed Publications**

- “Investments in Student Health and Mental Health in California’s Public Schools”, Getting Down to Facts II, PACE/Stanford University, <https://gettingdowntofacts.com/> 2018
- “No Child Left Behind Act (*NCLB*)” in the SAGE Encyclopedia of Educational Research, Measurement, and Evaluation; edited by Bruce Frey, 2018.

“Review of *New York City’s Children First*,” National Education Policy Center, June 2014,  
<http://nepc.colorado.edu/thinktank/review-NYC-children-first>

## Working Papers

- Does Access to Health Care Affect Teen Fertility and High School Dropout Rates? Evidence from School-based Health Center Openings (w/ Michael Lovenheim & Leigh Wedenoja)
- Primary Health Care Access and Children’s Educational Achievement (w/ Tamara Lalovic Cox)
- Keeping up with the Joneses’ School District: Fiscal Spillovers between Local Governments

## Other Work in Progress

- Teacher Perceptiveness and Student Learning
- Stealing from Students and Taxpayers

## Grants

- NIH/Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, “Impact of School-Based Health Centers on Improving Health and Promoting Equity,” subaward, 2023-2026, \$120,438.
- Spencer Foundation Grant. “Where Health Policy Meets Education Policy: The Emergence and Impacts of School-based Health Centers in New York City.” 2012-14, \$38,270.
- Institute for Education Sciences (U.S. Dept. of Education) Grant, “The Effects of *No Child Left Behind* on School Services and Student Outcomes,” (with co-PI Jonah Rockoff), 2009-12, \$806,586. Produced research papers, as well as a national data sharing website: <https://business.columbia.edu/nclb>
- Spencer Foundation Grant, “The Effects of *No Child Left Behind* on School Services and Student Outcomes,” (with co-PI Jonah Rockoff), 2008-10, \$205,175.
- AERA/NSF/Institute for Education Sciences Research Grant, “The Financing, Provision, and Consequences of School-site Mental Health Services for Young Children in the United States,” 2006-08, \$34,162.
- Columbia ISERP Seed Grant, “The Effects of *No Child Left Behind* on School Services and Student Outcomes,” 2006-08, \$5,000.
- American Education Finance Association, New Scholar Grant, “Entry Costs and the Supply of Public School Teachers.” 2002-3, \$3,000.
- Office of Tax Policy Research at the University of Michigan, Small Research Grant, 2001, \$1,000. “Political Economy of Local School Revenues.”
- American Education Finance Association, Roe L. John’s Grant, 2001 and Will Myers Grant, 2002, (Travel).

## Service to the College/University

Tenure and Promotion Committees for Economics and Education Departments: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023  
Middle States Working Group #4 Committee Member, 2019-2020  
Columbia Faculty Athletics Committee, 2017-2018  
Hirschorn Prize Reviewer, 2018  
Columbia University Economics Department Instructor-in-Practice Reviewer, 2017  
Faculty Search Committees: Econ (‘04-05, ‘11-12, ‘14-15, ‘15-16, ‘20-21, ‘21-22, ‘22-23), Political Science (‘13-14), Education (‘04-05, ‘15-16)  
Barnard-Columbia Urban Studies Program Faculty Committee, 2003-2021.  
Barnard Faculty Representative at Seven College Conference at Wellesley College, 11/29/10-11/30/10.  
1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>-year student academic adviser, 2005-06, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2010-2012.  
Barnard Junior Faculty Mentor, 2011-15; 2016-present  
Barnard Diversity Task Force, 2011-2012.  
Barnard College Middle States Assessment Working Group, 2009-2010.  
Barnard College Financial Aid Working Group, 2008-2010.  
Barnard College Faculty Recorder, 2008-2009.  
Barnard College Faculty Finance and Resource Committee, 2004-2006.

Barnard College President's Faculty Advisory Committee, 2004-2006.

Student-Faculty Dessert Series Speaker, 2004 and 2005.

Barnard College Faculty Teller, 2003-04

Panelist, Columbia Political Union's Panel on Education Policy, 2014; "Manhattanville Project in the Wider Context," sponsored by Global Solutions, 2007; "Show Me the Money! Fiscal Equity and Urban Schooling," Barnard, 2005.

Guest Lecturer, Contemporary Issues in Education, Barnard, annually from 2005-2011.

Guest Lecturer, Quantitative Methods in Social Science, Columbia University, 2004, 2013.

Columbia University QMSS Master's Thesis advising: Greg Werbin '15; Antonia Wang '09; Ryan Tan '05.

Undergraduate Thesis advising (beyond normal teaching load): Eric Wang '08 (Columbia Economics); Rimma Ayzen (Barnard) '06; Sheena Gordon (Barnard) '05, Orly Kialli (Barnard) '05

## Service to the Profession

**Editor:** *Education Finance and Policy*, July 2019-2023

**Associate Editor:** *Education Finance and Policy*, July 2017-June 2019

**Editorial Boards:** *Education Finance and Policy*, 2009-2017

*Education Evaluation & Policy Analysis*, 2016-2018

**Board of Directors:** *Association for Education Finance & Policy*, 2012-15.

**Program Committee Member:** *Association for Education Finance & Policy*, 2012-15; 2016-2017

*Association for Public Policy and Management*, 2011.

**Journal Article Referee:** *American Economic Journal: American Journal of Health Economics; Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Education Research Journal, AERA Open, Journal of Applied Econometrics, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, Demography, Eastern Economic Journal, Economics of Education Review, Economic Letters, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Economica, Education Economics, Education Evaluation & Policy Analysis, Education Finance & Policy, Educational Policy, Educational Researcher, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Housing Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Mental Health Policy & Economics, National Tax Journal, Journal of Policy Analysis & Management, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Budgeting and Finance, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Regional Science, Journal of Urban Economics, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Policy Studies Journal, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Educational Studies, Social Problems, Sociology of Education, Southern Economics Journal, State & Local Government Review, Statistics Politics & Policy, Agenda: A Journal of Policy Analysis and Reform, ANNALS of Amer. Academy of Political & Social Science, New Directions in Education Policy Implementation.*

## Other Service:

- *Grant Reviewer:* Institute for Education Sciences; Smith Richardson Foundation; Sloan Foundation
- *Discussant:* Princeton University Conference for *JHR* special issue on Causes and Consequences of Child Mental Health
- *Invited Testimony:* Massachusetts House of Representatives Joint Committee on Education Hearing, comments on the costs and benefits of school counselors
- *Conference Paper Discussant:* American Economic Association, American Education Finance Association, American Education Research Association, Association for Public Policy & Management, Society of Labor Economists, Southern Economic Association, Eastern Economic Association.
- *Doctoral Dissertation Award Committee Member*, 2011, Association for Public Policy and Management.
- *Session Organizer*, American Economic Association Annual Meeting, January 2011, "School Accountability and Student Outcomes: The Impact of No Child Left Behind"
- *Discussant and Co-organizer* @ Mellon-23 Mini-conference, "Evaluating Teaching and Learning at Liberal Arts Colleges," Wellesley College, Sept. 2008.
- *Conference Submission Reviewer:* Association for Education Finance & Policy; American Educational Research Association; Society for Research on Education Effectiveness